FBIS DAILY REPORT

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MINISTERS ARRIVE IN COLOMBIA FOR OAS MEETING

PA020223 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Dec 85

[Graciela Lars report]

[Excerpt] Cartagena -- The themes of universality and pluralism and the need to give more political support to the OAS secretary general have been supported by the American foreign ministers who arrived today in Cartagena. The discussion of these Colombian proposals and other topics on the agenda will begin when President Belisario Betancur officially opens the special OAS meeting.

The arrivals of foreign ministers and delegates took place all day. Meanwhile, at the convention center, preparations were being finalized under strict security. One of the first to arrive was OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, who asserted that there is a consensus about most of the topics to be discussed and the political will to unify opinions. Baena Soares expressed confidence in the efforts of the Contadora Group and ruled out the inclusion on the agenda of Cuba's return to the organization.

[Begin Baena recording] There is not a point on this matter on the organization's agenda. [end recording]

However, certain countries have reservations about the amendments to the charter, which is the funamental objective of the special OAS meeting.

Mexico Supports Cuban Membership

FL022239 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1540 GMT 2 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Cartagena, 2 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor has said here that he will attempt to achieve an OAS consensus on a document on peace and cooperation for Central America. Upon his arrival in this city, where he will attend the 14th OAS meeting beginning today, Sepulveda Amor asserted that overcoming the negotiation crisis to agree on a peace document for Central America initiated by the Contadora Group -- Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama -- depends solely on the willingness of the governments involved.

The Mexican foreign secretary added that the types of compromises the Central American countries are willing to adopt need to be determined if they want peaceful and sovereign solutions for self-determination and progress, or if they want something else.

Negotiations are at a standstill over disagreements on military balance, inasmuch as Nicaragua maintains an overwhelming superiority as well as troop mobilizations in border areas. In addition, Nicaragua is demanding a clause to protect it against a possible U.S. military attack.

Sepulveda Amor said that Mexico will support at the OAS meeting a universalization proposal that would allow Cuba's return to the organization. Mexico has always defended the idea that it is not fair to exclude a country because of the nature of its government, and this is why it has maintained relations with Cuba, the Mexican foreign minister said.

The universalization proposal was submitted, among others, by Colombian Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, and it is expected to be the most controversial subject at the special OAS general assembly. The aim is also to include Canada, Belize, Guyana, and other countries to strengthen the regional organization.

Conference Opens 2 December

PA021910 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Dec 85

[Excerpt] The foreign ministers of America will today begin to examine in the context of the 14th special OAS assembly the possibility of introducing political reforms in the OAS to give the international organization more political power. However, most of the foreign ministers have said that Colombia's proposal for ideological pluralism may lack support. Margarita Mesa, in Cartagena, site of the special OAS assembly, has more.

[Begin recording] [Mesa] Thirty American foreign ministers are meeting now in Cartagena's convention center to begin the deliberations of the 14th special OAS assembly. The OAS delegates will discuss not only topics like the proposed reform to the OAS Charter to make it more operational, but also all the problems burdening this hemisphere. Colombian President Belisario Betancur delivered a warm address at noon today officially opening the meeting.

The Colombian delegation will propose political, economic, and administrative reforms to the OAS Charter. The Colombian Foreign Ministry intends to sponsor ideological pluralism, nonintervention in the domestic affairs of states -- there would be a penalty of suspension from the OAS of the country that incurs that charter violation -- and the universalization of the OAS, to include the participation of not only Canada and Belize, but the reintegration of Cuba.

[Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo] We believe that all countries participating in the Latin American and Caribbean scene must be members of the OAS. We will ratify this position. Naturally, the participants must act according to the rules of the game established by the OAS. That is why we are proposing reforms to the OAS Charter by which countries will be suspended or expelled from the organization for violating the charter. The charter does not now contain provisions to that effect. We do stress, however, that Colombia advocates universality and pluralism in the organization.

[Mesa] With regard to the provisions on administrative affairs, Colombia is proposing that the OAS secretary general -- in this case Joao Baena Soares -- be vested with more political power and have less responsibility in administrative matters. [end recording]

Nicaragua To Challenge Shultz

PA022105 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 2 Dec 85

[Text] Alejandro Bendana, Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry secretary, has announced that Nicaragua will examine [enjuiciara] the United States' interventionist policy at the OAS extraordinary assembly that began today in Cartagena de Indias. We have come to this forum to uphold the principle of nonintervention and peaceful resolution of conflicts, Bendana said.

He continued: There is a member of the OAS, its name is United States, that is trampling these principles by carrying out a dirty and criminal war against Nicaragua. Bendana recalled that only 2 days ago the U.S. Administration announced new military maneuvers with Honduras and the approval of more equipment for the counterrevolutionary mercenary bands who are attempting to overthrow the Sandinist Government.

Bendana said that the Nicaraguan delegation will challenge the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to say whether the United States is willing to respect the principle of nonintervention, as established in the OAS Charter. Bendana said that if the U.S. Administration does not respect this principle, then there is no reason it should remain in this regional organization.

Regarding the search for a peaceful resolution of the Central American conflict, Bendana said that the Contadora Group continues to be a valid alternative. However, he warned that the United States' aggressiveness and intervention hinder all definite agreements. Contadora has not been exhausted; the alternative would be war, and this is a threat for Latin America, he said.

The Nicaraguan official said that his country's foreign minister, Miguel D'Escoto, is not present at this meeting because he is touring the Far East, a trip that had been scheduled some time ago.

The strengthening of the principle of nonintervention established in the OAS Charter has been proposed by Colombia and will be studied during the meeting. The Colombian Government believes that the hemispheric organization's charter must clearly establish that member countries that intervene in the internal matters of other states of the area will be sanctioned and could be expelled from the organization.

Shultz, Bendana Have 'Bitter' Argument

PA022047 Managua Sandino in Spanish 1955 GMT 2 Dec 85

[Text] Cartagena, Colombia -- The 14th Special OAS Assembly began today in Cartagena amid conflicting opinions on how and when that organization should be reformed. The foreign ministers participating in the meeting met informally this morning before the official opening of the sessions by OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and Colombian President Belisario Betancur.

The outstanding topic of the meeting called by the Colombian Government will be the political, economic, and administrative reforms to the structure and operation of the organization. Although several member countries have presented reform proposals, the move is led by Colombia, which advocates changes in the OAS that will make it more effective and responsive to the interests of the area countries.

The first diplomatic incident erupted at Cartagena between the United States and Nicaragua today several hours before the Colombian president declared the meeting open. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz accused the Sandinist government of supporting the Colombian 19 April Movement [M-19] in statements to the press last night during a stopover at the Cayman Islands before he arrived in Cartagena. Nicaragua reacted angrily.

The links between the Nicaraguan communists and the M-19 are quite clear, Shultz said in George Town, although he declined to indicate what proof he had to substantiate this charge. Aledjandro Bendana, general secretary of the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry and the Sandinist government's delegate to the OAS meeting, said that Mr Shultz misses no opportunity to arbitrarily attack Nicaragua. Shultz is not on par to discuss the substance and principles on which Nicaragua and many other countries where the reforms to the charter must have the support of all, Bendana said. [sentence as heard] Shultz and Bendana had a bitter argument during a meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and the foreign ministers of the hemisphere before the opening of the special OAS session. We believe it is absolutely irresponsible to issue statements like these. We ask Mr Shultz when he assumed the right to speak on behalf of Colombia and the Colombian people, Bendana asked.

Betancur Speaks at Session

PA030323 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Dec 85

[Excerpts] A special OAS meeting opened in Cartagena today amidst uncertainty about the achievements to be expected of this convocation of the continent's foreign ministers. Interventionism became the highlighted topic of the meeting. Nicaragua charged the United States with violating the Rio de Janeiro Treaty, which bans intervention by one state in another's affairs. The United States accused Nicaragua of assisting the subversive 19 April Movement, M-19, in Colombia.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz met with Colombian President Belisario Betancur for 45 minutes. Shultz flew back to Washington tonight. Also today, the United States viewed Cuba's joing the OAS as unnecessary; this proposal was presented by Colombia. Colombia's other proposals, particularly in relation to amendments to the OAS Charter, will barely begin to be discussed tomorrow. These are the events of the first day of the OAS meeting.

Cartagena is today a city of contrasts. It is three different cities in one, the traditional one of nonchalant city dwellers, that of tourists, and that of the OAS meetings. This latter is impressive due to the security measures adopted. Dozens of policemen, soldiers, and secret agents -- a considerable number of them from the United States -- guarantee the physical safety of 30 foreign ministers and U.S. Secretary of State Shultz.

[Begin Becantur recording] We have no doubt as to the historic importance of the time in which we live. Let there be no doubt of this. Let there be no doubt that conditions are ripe for tackling the organization's reforms. Let there be no doubt that it would be dangerous to postpone our decisions. We cannot turn back, slow down, or stop the clock of history. We have the ability to bring about changes. Regarding this, we, the OAS member states, must act if we are to prevent the wave of nonconformity from overwhelming us. [end recording]

The amendments proposed by Colombia do not seem to be supported by a majority of OAS member countries. The opposite happened with another Colombian proposal for Cuba to return to the organization, from which it was expelled more than 20 years ago when Castro assumed office and entered the USSR communist orbit.

ALFONSIN PROPOSES NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC ACCORD

PY022301 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1202 GMT 1 Dec 85

[Closing speech by President Raul Alfonsin at plenary session of Radical Civic Union [UCR] National Committee, at Parque Norte swimming complex in Buenos Aires -- live]

[Excerpts] Mr President of the National Committee, Messrs delegates: During my first 2 years in office, I have made every effort not only to be but also to act like the president of all Argentines. This attitude will remain unchanged during the rest of my term. That is why I feel both pleased and happy to have this first opportunity to meet you. I would say this proves that there is an exception to every rule [words indistinct], first because of its exceptional nature and, second, because we will call upon the nation (?and of the people), and we believe that without its resolve, its support, and its convictions, this convocation will stand no chance of succeeding. We have christened this call "Convocation for a Democratic Accord."

The challenge: Argentina is facing the challenge of building its future and overcoming the consequences of long years of decay and frustration. As a society, Argentina is at one of the most difficult junctures in its history; on the eve of the 21st century and amid the changes that society is undergoing at the world level, Argentina must decide whether it will play an active role in this process or whether it will hang on to the coattails of the great hegemonic powers.

The logistics of power in the world of the future will give no chance to those who relinquish their right to self-determination. Without indulging in unrealistic expectations of becoming a world power, Argentina -- a nation endowed with considerable natural and human resources -- can and must expect to play a significant role in this major transitional process that mankind is going through. This process is as crucial and as dramatic as the industrial and the democratic revolution, which 200 years ago opened new horizons for Western history and for all mankind. Building a new society poses a great challenge and calls for a social pact to put an end to the wild struggle in which everyone is regarded as an enemy. However, only if there is a great national objective will it be possible to reach a social pact.

Thus, our common commitment to building a better society is the very essence of the social pact. Our joint action will be a precondition for success in this undertaking. The transition -- in an atmosphere of freedom -- to the new society calls for a clear conception of the country that we want, with an integrated society and closer communication and interrelations among men, a country in which all of us will abide by the same principles and will respect order. To strengthen this integrated society, we must do away with the antagonism and infighting of the past, which have divided us and torn us apart.

Our first commitment in the search for common goals should be to replace violence and intolerance with debate and pluralism, and to eradicate wild struggles as a method for settling differences, replacing them with open debates in which the will of the majority and the rights of the minority are respected. The new society, which we will build to realize the hopes and aspirations of the people, can be none other than a democratic society built by and for Argentines. Its objective will be to help its members achieve individual and social self-fulfillment and develop all their potential.

Therefore, society cannot and will not burden men, but it must and it will help them develop their potential and strengthen their inalienable rights, like the right to life, the right to have a job, the right to equality, the right to ownership in conformity with social goals, the right to actively and responsibly engage in making political decisions, and the right to participate in the generation and fair distribution of wealth.

The change we are going to introduce is not an end in itself. One of its main objectives is the building, through a common effort, of a new society, which should strengthen freedom in this new system of coexistence beginning in Argentina.

Inserting Argentina into the world: Argentina must be properly inserted into the international community. In the current world, our country must approach this issue from the viewpoint of its own internal process of modernization and democratic consolidation. We should also take into account the changes in other nations, in the mutual relations between those nations, and in the relations between those nations and the various regional, political, military, and economic blocs.

To make a clear analysis of the issue, we will consider it at three different levels: 1) Political insertion; 2) Cultural insertion; 3) Economic insertion, and 4) Insertion into the strategic-military area. Each of these levels calls for different degrees of insertion, from the viewpoint of both time and space.

Political insertion: Faithful to its traditional values, Argentina belongs to the group of nations that believe that pluralist democracy is the most just, efficient, and advantageous political system for organizing and governing a modern and complex society. This does not mean subordination to any group of nations. It implies an ideological subordination to the principle that establishes that the political party system, with full respect for the rights of the opposition, for dissent, and for the alternation of parties in power, is the most essential factor for building an efficient democracy.

Within this context, and with due respect for the principles of nonintervention and self-determination, Argentina must strive for the consolidation of similar systems in Latin America, because it believes that democracy cannot be a privilege of just a few nations. Argentina will also seek that the relations between the various regional, historical, and cultural blocs be based on democratic rules. The new Argentine society will adopt a new concept of democracy, which our country will propose to the rest of the world. This new democracy will seek to promote the participation of the people by giving them new chances to engage in the process of adoption of rules and in the making of decisions.

Latin American political integration will be considered a valuable and necessary step. In the future, this integration process should lead to a situation in which mankind jointly shares the scientific, technological, economic, and cultural progress achieved during this state, in which societies are undergoing deep changes.

It has been appropriately said that "mankind consists of the people who are endlessly influencing themselves and who seek the help of God in their search for the supreme unity."

We will regard the full validity of human rights as an essential value, both internally and internationally, and we shall accept neither geographic nor ideological barriers of any kind to defend them. In this regard, no action can be considered an interference. They are mankind's supreme value and inalienable heritage.

Economic insertion: Argentina cannot agree to an economic division of the world into central and peripheral countries and into the developed north and the underdeveloped south as an unchangeable situation. On the contrary, it maintains that the persistence and/or intensification of this situation will generate conflicts and tension that will endanger the prosperity and security of the central and northern countries.

This position is not based on merely practical or strategic considerations. Argentina will proclaim the unfairness of the existence of rich and poor countries and of the discriminatory practices by the developed countries, which are ethically unacceptable and which are untenable for the nations that have built their internal organization upon the principles of democracy and freedom.

Taking into account that the phase in which our country supplied agricultural products in return for other goods is over, and that the import-substitution phase is also over, Argentina must now implement a development program under which we will no longer be considered as a marginal economy or as an economy that should subordinate itself to the concept of complementarity. The deep technological gap that separates Argentina from the developed countries and from other new development centers that are emerging in the Pacific basin must be covered through the rational incorporation of modern production information and organization systems into our economy, within the framework of Latin American integration, thus opening vast geographical areas and cities to progress.

The task of building a modern, developed country, honorably and creatively integrated into the international economic system through regional integration, cannot be achieved by a government or a single party alone. Neither can it be imposed by the state. It is a task in which all sectors of society must help in the building of the country in order to stop the process of deterioration that is characterized by an unjust international order that cannot be maintained in the long run.

The need for changes is not to be proclaimed by the displaced countries alone. The developed countries should also accept this as an ethical, practical, and political need. We do not want to be the new barbarians standing at the border of a new empire. The empires should recall and mediate on the history of barbarians.

We want to actively and creatively participate in the building of a better and fairer world in which freedom should be strong. We will not relinquish this right and we will uphold it for all the nations of the world.

Strategic, military insertion: Argentina does not belong to either of the two large military blocs that control a large portion of the world, and it has no aspirations to belong to them. The existence of these two blocs must be considered a permanent danger to world peace and all initiatives for disarmament must be supported.

Moreover, Argentina should not accept settlement of differences between the two large blocs on the military and political stages of the so-called Third World, much less in its own territory. We must strongly condemn this type of intervention, denouncing just as strongly the situation of the nations and peoples that are on the verge of disintegration because of foreign intervention, which has fanned domestic conflicts into wars with no possible winners. This position justifies Argentina's support for the Nonaligned Movement, whose independence from the blocs must be preserved and fully respected by all its members with neither speculation nor double-talk.

The Nonaligned Movement should not become a third bloc or adopt specific ideologies. Its main objectives must be peace, justice, independence and coexistence among all peoples. The Movement should also maintain that the possession of huge nuclear arsenals by the great powers is not a matter that concerns those powers alone. An eventual nuclear conflict would destroy mankind. Therefore, mankind must have a say in the debates to counter such a terrible threat.

The concept of the democracy that we want to build on the basis of participation represents an extension of the modern concept of democracy and is in no way opposed to formal democracy. All democracies are formal from the viewpoint that they have rules for restricting, establishing, and organizing political activities and the functioning of the state and society. All democracies, by definition, also grant the people the right to participate in the making of political decisions.

The constitutional principle that the people deliberate and govern through their representatives does not exclude other mechanisms for participation. Therefore, what we have to do is broaden the opportunities for participation that the Constitution has established, giving proper channels of expression to the parties, the social organizations, the municipalities, and the neighborhood organizations. We are convinced that to the extent that the people engage in joint actions for collective purposes they become more aware of such collective goals and more interested in working to achieve them.

If democracy is unable to introduce changes into society -- changes that involve the imperative of modernizing the country without giving up our solidarity -- it will also inevitably fail as a political system.

These are our difficulties. To face them, it is essential to develop a modern democratic will that meets the current challenge for formal and substantive innovations.

Actually, we are not starting from scratch. Even though it is true that the main ideological systems are going through a crisis, it is also true that those crises have produced the elements for a recomposition into a new integration scheme. We are thinking of a process that will rescue the best Argentine traditions and which, in so doing, will generate a new collective will that must be more than the mere sum of individual wills.

Our country must vigorously emerge from its long crisis. The decision to participate from all sectors of society will provide the driving force. Those who are responsible for interpreting and meeting the needs and aspirations of the various social sectors must firmly and unselfishly undertake this task: We must learn to unite and join our efforts in order to bring about changes and transformations. We must learn to join the efforts that every one of us does in his own place. The political work will spread and convey this new constructive spirit to all Argentines. Let us be willing to march together. We must unite what has been disunited. We must have the predisposition and the willingness. Yet we should also assume a commitment to working for these goals in our own daily lives.

As for us, the Radicals, we must understand that we must meet this challenge, and we must resort to our historical strength to meet the demands of the fatherland, in the belief that by so doing we will be taking the first step to meet such demands, freeing ourselves from the schemes of the past. Devoid of arrogance and prejudice, let us work, study, and prepare, jointly with our fellow countrymen, the Argentina of the future.

RADICALS ELECT NEW NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

PY021540 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1105 GMT 1 Dec 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Dec (TELAM) -- Just before 0300 today, the plenum of delegates of the National Committee of the Radical Civic Union (UCR) approved, after an extensive debate, the members of its National Executive Board that will manage the party for the next 2 years. Following are the names of the members of the board:

President: Raul Alfonsin
Acting President: Edison Otero (Buenos Aires)
First Vice President: Cesar Jaroslavsky (Entre Rios Province)
Second Vice President: Ricardo Barrios Arrechea (Misiones Province)
Third Vice President: Anibal Reinaldo (Santa Fe Province)

Secretaries (in alphabetical order):

Ernesto Alderete Salas (Catamarca Province)
Oscar Alvarez Guerrero (Rio Negro Province)
Antonio Berhongaray (La Pampa Province)
Esther Crespo de Riera (Santa Cruz Province)
Ruben Chebaia (Tucuman Province)
Ramon Dussol (Chaco Province)
Edgardo Grosso (Cordoba Province)
Arturo Gonzalez Martin (Mendoza Province)
Norberto Marini (San Juan Province)
Miguel Martinez Saravia (Salta Province)
Sergio Montiel (Entre Rios Province)
Prospero Nieva (Juyuy Province)
Rodolof Quezada (Neuquen Province)
Jesus Rodriguez (National Committee of Youth)
Angel Roig (Buenos Aires Province)
Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen (Chubut Province)
Federico Storani (Buenos Aires Province)
Marcelo Stubrin (Federal Capital)

Thus, the board of the UCR National Committee has increased the number of its members from 15 to 25. The post of acting president has been created with the approval of the national party convention. The number of secretaries has been doubled from 9 to 18; this increase still has to be approved by the national convention.

With the exception of Dussol (Yrigoyenist Affirmation Movement), Martinez Saravia (National Line), and Roig (National Integration Movement), the leaders are all members of the Renovation and Change Movement. The provinces of Corrientes, Formosa, La Rioja, San Luis and Tierra del Fuego have no representatives on the board.

200,000 METALWORKERS STRIKE ON SALARY DEMANDS

PY301801 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0001 GMT 30 Nov 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Nov (TELAM) -- Some 200,000 metalworkers today went on strike in the final stage of the second part of their struggle for salary improvements. The decision was made by the metalworkers union (UOM), which called for a special congress for 11 [word indistinct] in Mar del Plata to analyze the plan of struggle and the increase in the workers' contributions to the unions.

UOM treasurer Hugo Curto, chief assistant to Justicialist leader Lorenzo Miguel, said that in addition to a salary readjustment established by the labor-management salary commissions, they demand that Resolution 29, which grants an additional salary increase of approximately 20 percent, be enforced again. The workers also demand that the social services be returned to them and that a commission be appointed immediately to replace the interventor of the OSPIM [expansion unknown]. Curto announced that the Mar del Plata congress will surely decide on new [words indistinct].

A metalworkers' sector source has reported that the congress will also analyze the possibility of increasing the workers' contributions from 1.5 to 2.5 percent of their salaries in order to provide the funds needed by the UOM.

GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC PLAN FACING SERIOUS PROBLEMS

PY021550 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1952 GMT 30 Nov 85

[By Javier Viscarra Valdivia]

[Text] La Paz, 30 Nov (EFE) -- The neoliberal economic model implemented in Bolivia 3 months ago is facing serious problems and, contrary to its economic policy, the government of Victor Paz Estenssoro has had to decree a 200-percent wage hike.

Left-wing political parties have stated that the new economic policy has failed. Some newspapers today state that the new economic policy has foundered, but that the government is denying its failure.

Despite the provisions of the decree establishing a new economic order in Bolivia, social tensions and price hikes yesterday forced the government to decree a 200-percent minimum wage increase. The decree implementing a new economic order established a wage freeze until the end of 1985.

During the first month of implementation of the neoliberal model, and even during the first 100 days of Paz's tenure, the government managed to curb hyperinflation, reducing it to 0.1 percent in October. However, in less than 3 weeks the achievements seem to have come to nothing.

While initially the dollar almost reached parity between the official and the black market exchange rates, over the past 20 days the U.S. currency has increased its value by slightly over 50 percent, causing a very rapid upward trend in foodstuff prices.

After implementation of the decree establishing a new economic model on 29 August, the dollar was quoted between 1,060,000 and 1,120,000 pesos, with a slight difference (less than 3 percent) in relation to black market quotations. Over the past 20 days, however, with the supply and demand system ordered for the dollar exchange rates under the supervision of the Central Bank, the U.S. currency was quoted at 1,493,000 pesos on the official market, and at 1,750,000 to 1,800,000 on the black market.

Trade union sources have stated that the U.S. currency increase has led to a price increase making living conditions unbearable, adding that trade union leaders have initiated contacts to review the situation.

The wage increase decreed yesterday involves a minimum wage increase from 10,170,000 pesos (about $6 monthly) to 30,000,000 pesos (about $17 monthly at the unofficial exchange rate). The decree establishes a wage increase for public servants, retroactive to August, while private sector workers will have to deal directly with their employers.

Despite the problems the economic model is facing, Planning Minister Guillermo Bedregal has stated that the economic crisis may be overcome by implementing the new policy.

BRAZILIANS SAID MINING GOLD IN ARARAS DISTRICT

PY022323 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 2 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Great quantities of Bolivian gold are being taken away by foreigners. The district of Araras has become a no-man's-land, where the adventurers make their own law without any control by Bolivian authorities.

Representatives of Nationalist Democratic Action [ADN] have been insisting that the government take an immediate interest in gold mining, using all the technical and human resources it possesses, and, above all, that it establish national sovereignty over regions where foreigners get most of the profits.

We will now listen to ADN Deputy Waldemar Becerra, who reminds us that his party, as well as the Beni and Pando congressional delegations, have repeatedly denounced Brazilian infiltration into Bolivian territory. These congressional blocs have also specifically suggested that the Navy impose full national sovereignty, especially in the region of the Araras River, but government authorities still have not dared to put things in order.

[Begin Becerra recording] I think this subject is undoubtedly known to all citizens. The Beni and Pando congressional delegations have already denounced Brazilian gold-mining infiltration in the Araras region. We have photographs and witnesses proving the existence of 1,000 barges used for gold mining in the Araras region, more specifically on the left bank of the Madera River. Unfortuantely, all this wealth will strengthen the economy of the neighboring country. No Bolivians live in this remote and abandoned region, due to a lack of roads. Building roads is the only way to stop Brazilian infiltration. [end recording]

As evidence that this charge is not merely hypothetical, we will remind you that the Beni and Pando congressional delegations have submitted a motion to the Chamber of Deputies requesting that the Navy receive barges for patrol boats to better control the regions where gold mining is carried out indiscriminately, far from the control of the Bolivian authorities.

Waldemar Becerra, a deputy who never tires of denouncing Brazilian infiltration of Bolivian territory, will comment on that.

[Begin recording] [in progress] ... through a motion by another La Paz ADN deputy last week asking the government to furnish barges or patrol boats to the Bolivian Navy for effective control of the Madera River banks. Unfortunately, we believe this is not the solution, because the Madera River is not completely navigable. We have many rapids that will hinder the Bolivian Navy's operations. I believe the only possible way to prevent Bolivian gold from being taken out of the country is for the government to plan and program gold mining in the region. [end recording] [passage omitted]

SARNEY TAX, SPENDING REFORMS, IMF REACTION VIEWED

PY302321 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICAN DAILY POST in English 30 Nov 85 p 5

["Brazil's Economic Week in Review," special to the DAILY POST by Tom Murphy]

[Excerpts] Sao Paulo -- President Jose Sarney this week announced a broad package of tax and spending reforms designed to reduce government deficit spending.

The tax reform portion of the package included reductions in government withholding, exemption from income taxes of workers earning five minimum salaries or less, a financial transaction tax over most capital gains and a delay of some tax returns for statements filed in 1986. [Sentence as Published]

The president also announced controls over government spending for 1986. A federal government hiring freeze will continue, he said, and 10 percent to 20 percent cuts in administrative costs will be enforced. The cuts will be harshest over expense accounts, use of official vehicles and payment of consulting fees.

The new taxes will bring the government the equivalent of $3 billion in new revenues in 1986, said Finance Minister Dilson Funaro. The spending cuts should yield another $1 billion. More money may be raised by the sale of stock, or outright divestiture, of state-controlled companies.

Planning Minister Joao Sayad said spending cuts, a hiring freeze and controls over investments of state-controlled corporations will also aid in controlling government deficit spending in 1986. He said "the goal of the policies is to make all state-controlled companies self-sufficient by the end of 1986, thus ending a huge drain on the Treasury."

Funaro said the measures will produce "the minimum possible government deficit for 1986." He said the expected deficit for 1986 will be 0.5 percent of gross national product. The expected 1985 deficit is between 2.7 percent and 2.8 percent of GNP, he said. The deficit in 1984 equalled 2.5 percent of GNP.

Funaro said another key element in the government's 1986 budget strategy is "continued controls over interest rates." He said the government has succeeded in dragging down interest rates for government bonds from approximately 30 percent over inflation to only 15 percent. He called the previous rates "the highest in the world, making it very expensive for the Brazilian government to finance its deficit." He said the decline in interest rates would save the government the equivalent of $2.2 billion in 1986.

President Sarney said the tax and spending reforms "will make it possible for Brazil to cut its federal government deficit but without sacrificing the social spending priorities of the New Republic." He said distribution of food and medicines to the poorest sectors of society are "top priorities" for his administration. He said "chief among investment priorities will be irrigation in the Northeast." He said the goal of the spending and investment programs would be "the eradication of absolute misery in Brazil by the end of the decade."

Sarney told the nation "we have already made progress. The fact that we have pulled out of the economic recession is, itself, important news. This year we created more than one and a half million jobs. But there is much to be done still. Curbing injustices and eliminating poverty will be the great goals of the administration during the balance of its life."

Funaro Meets With IMF Director

Finance Minister Dilson Funaro met early this week with International Monetary Fund Director Jacques de Larosiere in Washington for informal talks about Brazil's 1986 economic goals. Funaro called the session "informal and constructive," saying the IMF director showed "greater comprehension than in the past" of Brazil's social spending and foreign debt financing needs.

Funaro told the IMF director Brazil's 1986 federal budget deficit will be 0.5 percent of gross national product, a dramatic decline from this year's expected 2.7 percent to 2.8 percent figure. Funaro said De Larosiere was "impressed by the outline of Brazil's economic plans and goals for 1986."

Funaro said Brazil has also sounded out foreign banks on chances for a short or medium-term renegotiation of portions of the $104 billion foreign debt. Previous government strategy had been to seek a long-term stretch-out of many of the loans. "We believe a one or two year renegotiation could be appropriate while we observe the behavior of international lending markets," Funaro said.

Foreign bankers had mixed reactions to the proposal. One banker said "the long-term stretch-out is in the interests of all." But another banker said "a short-term renegotiation would mean Brazil will ask for flexible terms, which could be appropriate at this time.

Brazil's negotiating position will be outlined in detail by Central Bank President Fernao Bracher at a meeting with bankers in New York on Dec 12. Funaro said Bracher will seek a six-month to one-year extension of $15 billion in short-term credits currently due Jan 17. Bankers, however, have resisted the long-term extension of the credits, crucial to trade and overseas banking activities.

Congress Approves Budget for 1986

Congress this week approved a federal budget of 656 trillion cruzeiros for 1986. Based on an official estimate of 160 percent inflation for 1986, the federal budget would be the equivalent of $40 billion. Fully 32 percent of the federal outlays will go for debt service payments on huge internal and foreign borrowing.

The government will raise about one-third of the revenues it needs for 1986 from income taxes. Another one-third will come from other forms of taxation and the remaining money from sale of government bonds and emission of currency.

For the first time, the 1986 federal budget included spending, taxation and currency emissions in the same "unified" document. The budget included some 60 trillion cruzeiros in expected "new" revenues from tax proposals made this week by President Sarney.

Planning Minister Joao Sayad, responsible for formulation of the budget, said government borrowing in the form of bond sales will equal approximately 1.5 percent of gross national product in 1986.

Government Freezes Personnel, Cuts Costs

As part of a package of budget and tax reforms proposed this week, the Sarney administration vowed to maintain a federal government hiring freeze and cut administrative costs by 10 percent to 20 percent.

The total package of administrative cuts will save the federal government the equivalent of $1 billion in 1986, Minister of Public Administration Aluisio Alves said. He said the cuts would include travel, expense accounts, official vehicles and outside consulting fees. He said new investments in public works projects will be rigorously supervised, with some planned investments cancelled.

Alves said federal workers will not receive the 13th salary Christmas bonus this December, as previously planned. He said the 13th salary will be granted in December, 1986. However, the minister did announce a salary hike of 75 percent for nearly all federal workers effective Jan. 1. He said the hike was 4.7 percent above the sixth-month inflation rate.

Inflation Hits Monthly Record

The Getulio Vargas Foundation this week released the November inflation rate -- a record-breaking 15 percent. The highest monthly inflation rate ever recorded, the 15 percent figure pushed 12-month inflation to 227 percent, up from 213 percent at the end of October.

However, a new government policy substitutes a broader cost-of-living index used by the Geography and Statistics Institute as the official figure for monetary correction. The institute figure for the month was 11.12 percent. That figure will be used to calculate interest on government bonds and savings accounts. It will also be used to effect cost-of-living adjustments for salaries.

The record-breaking monthly inflation rate was led by wholesale food prices and home construction costs. Experts said the wholesale rise will be reflected in still more inflation in December and January. The big jump in inflation effectively buried government hopes of bringing inflation under 200 percent in 1985. It will also be difficult to keep yearly inflation below the record 223 percent rolled up in 1984.

Government policy-makers said they were hopeful food imports and selected price controls will keep the December figure under 10 percent. Finance Minister Dilson Funaro said "the November rate was very high but it was atypical. The December rate will be lower."

U.S. PLANS TO USE BRAZILIAN ISLANDS DENOUNCED

PY021535 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Nov 85 p 17

[Text] Brasilia -- Speaking from the Senate rostrum, Senator Jose Ignacio Ferreira (PMDB-ES) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party -- Espirito Santo State] yesterday denounced United States plans to use Martin Vaz and Trindade Islands -- 1,000 km off the Espirito Santo coast -- to test nuclear weapons and set up a nuclear base there. It is reported that $350 million will be invested in the project.

According to Senator Ferreira, this information has appeared in the magazine AFRIQUE ASIE, published in Paris, and, should it be confirmed, "national sovereignty over the islands, which are regarded as being of extreme strategic importance, would even be at stake." Ferreira added that the objective reportedly is to increase control over the South Atlantic, as England did with the Malvinas Islands.

GENERAL CANESSA SWORN IN AS NEW JUNTA MEMBER

PY030009 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 2 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Julio Canessa Robert was sworn in today as a member of the Government Junta to replace Lieutenant General Cesar Raul Benavides. The ceremony was held at Hall No 7 of the Diego Portales Building and was presided over by Admiral Jose Toribio Merino.

SINCLAIR ASSUMES DUTIES; APPOINTMENTS DETAILED

PY021730 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 26 Nov 85 p C 3

[Text] Army Deputy Commander in Chief Major General Santiago Sinclair Oyaneder, who is replacing Lieutenant General Julio Canessa Robert in that post, has assumed office. Gen Sinclair went yesterday morning to the office of the Army deputy commander in chief, located on the sixth floor of the National Defense Ministry building.

In addition, Major Generals Jorge P'Ryan Balbontin and Manuel Barros Recabarren were installed as Army chief of staff and Army inspector general, respectively. They replace Major Generals Enrique Valdes Puga and Cristian Ackertnech San Martin, respectively. In turn, Brigadier General Alfredo Calderon Campusano is acting as Army personnel director. He was recently appointed by the High Command to that post.

Brigadier General Renato Fuenzalida Maechel was installed as head of the Army Logistic Support Command (CALE). Fuenzalida Maechel replaces Brigadier General Jorge Downling Santa Maria. Brigadier General Manuel Matas Sotomayor presided over the ceremony which took place at the Quartermaster Batallion "Bellavista" and was attended by officers, noncommissioned officers, soldiers, and civilian employees working in that unit.

BOMBINGS CONTINUE IN SANTIAGO, VALPARAISO

PA030351 Paris AFP in Spanish 0313 GMT 3 Dec 85

[Text] Santiago, 2 Dec (AFP) -- According to police sources, a person was injured in downtown Santiago, Chile, when a powerful bomb exploded in an underpass as the wave of attacks with explosives, which in the last 24 hours has destroyed 10 buses and several electrical posts, continues. In the underpass of centrally located Bandera Street, a bomb injured Sergio Ernesto Valdes, 55, and other explosives caused damage to a supermarket located in the Americo Vespucio sector. The sources added that certain locations [postaciones] in the areas of Macul and Vasco da Gama, in eastern Santiago, were considerably damaged by dynamite explosions.

In Valparaiso, 140 km northwest of Santiago, an explosive device destroyed a container inside the customs facilities of the port, where some 1,500 stevedores are staging what is now a 5-week-long strike in demand of better wages. In neighboring Vina del Mar, another bomb attack tonight caused substantial damage to the local internal revenue office, creating a commotion in the downtown area of this elegant beach resort on the Pacific. Through midnight on Monday no organization had claimed credit for these attacks.

NEW SUPREME COURT JUSTICES APPOINTED

PA201935 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Nov 85

[Excerpts] The Supreme Court of Justice has named the seven magistrates needed to complete that body following the assault on the Palace of Justice. Those designated have 10 days to accept or turn down the appointment. Those appointed have a broad background in national legal circles. The chamber of criminal cases will be made up of Jaime Bernal Cuellar, who participated in the drafting of the Penal Code, has been a university professor for over 15 years and is the author of various treatises on criminal law; Jose Manuel Arias Carrizosa, a liberal senator who is a lawyer and was the communications minister in the Turbay Ayala administration; Jaime Rozo Rozo, who also has vast professional experience, is a specialist in crimes against property, and is the director of the Criminology Department at the National University; and Lisandro Martinez Zuniga and Hector Jimenez Rodriguez, who have backgrounds as impressive as the others.

Newly appointed to the chamber of labor affairs were Alvaro Diaz Granados and Humberto de Lacayo Lombana, who is currently the civil registrar.

ARMY KILLS 22 FARC GUERRILLAS IN TURBO AREA

PA020356 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Dec 85

[Text] Medellin -- According to a report by the 4th Brigade command in this city, 22 guerrillas belonging to a FARC front operating in the mountain areas of the region of Uraba were killed yesterday at Vereda La Cana, Turbo municipality. The clashes took place while the Voltigeros Battalion was conducting a combing operation at Vereda La Cana in search of Juan Moran Ramirez and cattleman Jose Maria Franco, who were kidnapped in early November in Apartado and (Necofie), respectively. A soldier, Juan de Jesus Jaramillo Peribanez, was killed, and a noncommissioned officer and two other soldiers were wounded. The names of the wounded were not disclosed, but they were reported to be out of danger.

The military forces said that three women and Otoniel Alvarez, commander of the guerrilla column, are among the 22 dead guerrillas.

According to the 4th Brigade communique, which is signed by Brigadier General Rafael Padilla Vergara, commander of this garrison, the identity papers of the late Jorge Mann Gomez Gomez, manager of the Carton de Colombia plant in Apartado, who was killed on a farm he owned in El Trece Corregimiento 8 days ago, were found in a knapsack of the dead guerrilla commander. The guerrillas carried small arms and rifles, according to the communique. Two peasants were killed and an undetermined number of people wounded in the attacks.

Meanwhile, public order was shaky yesterday afternoon in Currulao municipality following an attack on the headquarters of the National Union of Agricultural Workers [Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores del Agro], SINTAGRO, while a general meeting of members was being held.

ARMY CLASHES WITH M-19 CONTINUE IN CALI

PA020443 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Dec 85

[Excerpt] There were more confrontations between the Army and the M-19 [19 April Movement] in Cali's Siloe neighborhood today.

The Army confirmed 15 wounded today and 10 guerrillas killed in yesterday's clashes. Concern among labor and civic sectors of Antioquia increased today over the intensification of violence in Uraba. The same is true today in Cali, where Siloe residents requested the area's demilitarization. Jorge Enrique Rojas and Raul Benoit filed this report:

[Begin Benoit recording] Ten labor leaders have been killed in the past few months in Antioquia Department. The most recent incident took place in Curulao, where an assembly of agrarian workers was attacked, resulting in 3 dead, 2 wounded, and 122 arrests. Antioquia's labor movement has declared a state of alert and requested that the authorities conduct an investigation.

Another incident that created concern was the death of 22 guerrillas and 1 soldier in the same region. The president of the Peace Commission, John Agudelo Rios, described the incidents over the weekend as serious but reiterated that agreements with FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] are still in force.

Patrols continue today to search for a guerrilla cell made up of members of M-19, the Ricardo Franco Front, and the Democracy Group based in the area of La Estrella in Siloe neighborhood. Some businesses, discoteques, and soda fountains closed last night after the Army clashed with a guerrilla group that came down from Siloe in an attempt to break a military cordon of approximately 1,300 soldiers from the Cabal, Pichincha, Rifles, and Colombia Battalions. [end recording]

M-19 Leader Arrested

PA022149 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 2 Dec 85

[Text] Cali -- Military operations are continuing in the area of Siloe by special units of the Rifle and Colombia Battalions, the Cabal Mechanized Group, the Military Police, and the metropolitan police. Clashes are occurring sporadically. A police officer, two soldiers, and eight civilians have died in the confrontations. The wounded are being treated in the (Evaristo Garcia) University Hospital in Cali, where 2d Corporal Heriberto Rivera Rico is in critical condition from a bullet wound in the head. It has also been reported that the 3d Brigade arrested Afranio Parra Guzman, one of the top leaders of M-19 in the Siloe camps, together with two women, one of them identified as Estela.

Curfew Imposed

PA022018 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1920 GMT 2 Dec 85

[Text] Cali, 2 Dec (EFE) -- A curfew was imposed in the Colombian city of Cali today as the number of dead in clashes between government forces and M-19 rebels reached 15 since last Saturday. This death toll includes policemen, soldiers, civilians, and guerrillas, a 3d Brigade spokesman reported without disclosing further details. The governor of Valle del Cauca department decreed a curfew between 2100 and 0500, "until further notice," as long as the situation in the Cali neighborhoods of Siloe, El Cortijo, Lleras Camargo, 3 de Mayo, Brisas del Valle, Pueblo Joven, and Urbanizacion Monaco continues.

Since last Saturday police and troops of the Colombia and Rifles Battalions of Cali's 3d Brigade have been engaged in the "Clean Christmas for Cali" operation to break up cells of M-19 guerrillas who have virtually taken over the southwestern sector of town. This operation will also continue "until further notice," said the source, explaining that its aim is to "rid the area of cells of subversion."

SANGUINETTI MEETS WITH ISRAEL'S SHARON

PY271719 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0423 GMT 26 Nov 85

[Text] Montevideo, 25 Nov 85 (EFE) -- Israeli Industry Ministry Ari'el Sharon met today with Uruguayan President Julio Mario Sanguinetti to exchange opinions on future trade negotiations between their countries. According to Government House sources, the meeting was constructive, and the visitor told Sanguinetti of Israel's decision to collaborate in Uruguay's development.

Sharon, who has been on an official visit to Uruguay since 22 November, also met with Vice President Enrique Tarigo and with the President of the House of Deputies, Antonio Marchesano. The Israeli minister ended his agenda today with a meeting at the Montevideo City Hall with Mayor Jorge Elizalde.

NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS ENDS IN DISUNITY

PY021545 Paris AFP in Spanish 1633 GMT 1 Dec 85

[Text] Montevideo, 1 Dec (AFP) -- It was announced today in Montevideo that the national congress of the Uruguayan Labor Confederation PIT-CNT [Workers Interunion Plenary-National Convention of Workers] concluded early this morning. New authorities have been elected, but 40 percent of the delegates have warned that they will not acknowledge the resolutions.

The meeting of the workers, the first of its kind in 14 years, split on 29 November after a conflict flared up between the Communists and the other factions that make up the labor movement. Labor leaders of the Socialist, Christian Democratic and Liberal factions that withdrew from the meeting have stated that the Communist Party has hegemonic plans for the labor movement and that this cannot be accepted by the other factions.

At the conclusion of the congress, the delegates who did not withdraw made a fervent call for unity and named more than 40 members to the board of representatives, an intermediate management organization which is to elect the confederation's executive board.

However, the dissident labor leaders have made it known that they will not obey the congress' resolutions, that they will not obey the new leadership, and that they will promote a call for another congress within an adequate framework and in accordance with the principles of our working class.

The labor leaders who continued to participate in the congress have stressed that by its conclusion only 300 delegates had withdrawn, but the dissidents have warned that a large number of substitute delegates were allowed to participate, distorting the balance of the factions existing within the labor movement.

Union sources have stressed that out of the 50 federations and unions that participated in the congress, 20 withdrew with a majority of their delegates and 30 withdrew with a minority of their delegates.

LUSINCHI ADDRESSES ANNUAL GOVERNORS CONFERENCE

PA291639 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Nov 85

[Text] At the inauguration of the 27th annual governors meeting, President Jaime Lusinchi said that 1986 will be the year of government actions, the year of final adjustments, and a year of reactivation and concrete achievements for the country. We will now hear a report by Elsy Barrueta:

[Begin recording] [Barrueta] All the governors of the federal departments, cabinet members, and the president of the Republic gathered early today at the White Palace to begin the 27th annual governors assembly.

Governor of Carabobo Oscar Celli delivered a speech on behalf of the governors. He was followed by President Lusinchi, whose speech lasted 1 hour; he mentioned several topics of great interest to the country. Here are highlights of the topics covered by President Lusinchi, and of course you will hear part of his speech in his own words.

The recent internal process at the Democratic Action party [AD] was one of the points Lusinchi mentioned. In this regard he said it is very encouraging to see that the ruling AD party was strengthened in its unity. He added there is a general consensus in favor of the unavoidable need for the ruling party to comply with its duty to supervise, help, and cooperate with the government's actions. Lusinchi said that this was expressed by the people in the December 1983 elections and that the AD is complying with this mandate and will continue to do so.

While the audience listened attentively, Lusinchi referred to the problem of the renegotiation of our foreign debt. He stated specifically and clearly that the previous government had deliberately passed the responsibility on to the current government.

[Lusinchi] So it was a thoroughly deliberate action, which has notoriously harmed the country and which placed us on the verge of a catastrophe or the so-called black Friday. This had to happen in view of the fact that public finances were handled with extreme carelessness, I would say with incredible contempt and brazenness.

[Barrueta] However, President Lusinchi praised the work of the members of the negotiating commission as well as the finance minister, who conducted the renegotiation of Venezuela's foreign debt. He said there were no gross differences or contradictions between government officials and the members of the renegotiating commission during the first phase of the process. The commission, he said, did a very good job. He then noted that the next step is paying the banks.

[Lusinchi, in progress] ...690. Do you know what it is like to owe money to 690 banks in the world? We must comply with the terms of the agreements. However, there will be no problem, because the negotiating commission has been given full authority. Hence, we have concluded a very difficult process in the best conditions, without mortgaging the country's sovereignty in relation to its economy and finances.

[Barrueta] The tripartite commission made up of the government, the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers] and the Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] was also analyzed during the president's speech. President Lusinchi said that the commission is currently working on several items and reiterated that there will be concrete replies to the CTV demands concerning wages.

In his message to the governors, who made up the majority of his audience, Lusinchi clearly stressed the manner in which they should handle their respective departments, particularly the need to expedite some of the procedures, among them the handling of the coordinated budget [situado coordinado].

[Lusinchi] However, not all depends on the coordinated budget. Not all depends on what we could call structural faults. There are also human errors that we must admit courageously. We must also analyze them in order to correct them. The 6.5 billion [currency not specified] plan should have been implemented, but it was not. Why is it that some have carried it forward while others have not? Can the parcelling of land ordered by the political-administrative division be subject to conditions? Of course not. There are human factors here that must be analyzed.

[Barrueta] In his speech, President Lusinchi also referred to the drug trafficking problem. He reiterated his government's determination to struggle against drug trafficking, together with the country's security organizations.

[Lusinchi] Drug trafficking is highly destructive. It erodes society's foundations by attacking its most precious asset: youth. Some countries are beset by this problem due to the dimensions of drug consumption. I am sure than none of us wants Venezuela to be in that situation, and it is our duty to prevent this. [end recording]

BRIEFS

COCAINE CONFISCATED -- The National Guard has confiscated 15 and 1/2 kilos of cocaine at Alcabala de Rio Limon, Zulia State. According to reports, the drug had been hidden in a gasoline tank, covered with grease and plastic paper so that it could not be detected by trained dogs. [Excerpt] [Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Nov 85 PA]

DE LA MADRID, REAGAN TO MEET 3 JANUARY

FL022319 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2305 GMT 2 Dec 85

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- The Mexican Foreign Secretariat today confirmed that the presidents of Mexico and the United States will meet in the border town of Mexicali next 3 January. It indicated that Presidents Miguel de la Madrid and Ronald Reagan will discuss numerous bilateral, international, and regional matters.

This will be the fourth time De la Madrid and Reagan will meet. Their three previous meetings were held on 8 October 1982 in San Diego, 14 August 1983 in La Paz, and 14-16 August 1984 in Washington.

UN AMBASSADOR ON CONTINUED C. AMERICAN DIALOGUE

FL021834 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1427 GMT 2 Dec 85

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico's Permanent Ambassador to the United Nations Mario Moya Palencia has said there is no danger that dialogue in Central America will be broken off, despite Nicaragua's position. Upon his arrival in New York, the Mexican ambassador stressed the expectation that in its Cartagena meeting, which begins today, the OAS will take a stance in regard to the situation prevailing in Central America, as will be requested during the 40th UN meeting.

Stressing that Mexico's prestige is independent of its representation in international bodies, Moya Palencia noted the search for national and world consensus on a solution to the problems in Central America. He said Mexico is a responsible country that meets its international obligations and maintains its policy of principles and not interests. He added that a solution to the Central American problem is being sought to bring peace to the area and the integration of all countries.

NEW NATIONAL SECURITY DIRECTORATE CREATED

PA302008 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 30 Nov 85

[Text] Pedro Vasquez Colmenares assumed office yesterday as director of the Directorate of Investigation and National Security [Direccion De Investigacion y Seguridad Nacional]. During a ceremony at the Government Secretariat's Green Room, Government Secretary Manuel Barlett Diaz swore Vasquez Colmenares in as director of the new organization. The Directorate of Investigation and National Security will take over the functions of the Federal Security Directorate and the social and Political Investigations Directorate.

The new directorate will oversee and report national security developments and make them known to the Attorney General's Office when warranted, conduct investigations into and analyze social and political problems delegates to this organization, and provide security for foreign officials on official visits in Mexico.

In presenting the new security chief to the press, Bartlett Diaz described him as an honest man with a great deal of experience in public administration and solid political training, necessary for the consolidation of the new directorate.

Until yesterday Vasquez Colmenares served as governor of Oaxaca State. He has served as senior officer of the Presidency Secretariat, director of airports and auxiliary services, assistant secretary of land reform, and director of Aeromexico.

President Miguel de la Madrid has described Vasquez Colmenares as the right man to lead the new Directorate of Investigation and National Security.

Yesterday Vasquez Colmenares requested and was granted permission by the Oaxaca State Congress to leave the post of governor 11 months before the conclusion of his term. The local state legislature yesterday appointed Jesus Martinez Alvarez to replace him.

GOVERNMENT TO RAISE TAXES, CREATE INCOME SURTAX

FL291426 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 29 Nov 85

[Text] Mexico says it will increase taxes to face mounting economic problems and has created an income surtax for those earning more than $8,000 per year. Income generated by the surtax will be used to rebuild areas hit by the September earthquakes. Prices of gasoline, electricity, and public transportation are also to go up in January to generate additional income.

1986 PARASTATE BUDGET TOTALS $26 BILLION

FL291916 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2020 GMT 28 Nov 85

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Nov (NOTIMEX) -- The Secretariat of Planning and Budget has reported that the budget of the parastate public administration for 1986 will total 9,331.8 trillion pesos (more than $26 billion). According to the secretariat, Pemex will be one of the parastate organizations that will make the greatest expenditures next year; Pemex will spend 2,419.1 trillion pesos (more than $6 billion). This is 42.9 percent more than the amount budgeted for 1985.

In 1986 the Federal Electric Commission will spend 1,222.7 trillion pesos (more than $3 billion). The Mexican Social Security Institute will have a budget of 1,226.9 trillion pesos (more than $3.4 billion) for the same period, 55.5 percent more than was budgeted for 1985.

The National Company for Basic Commodities (Conasupo) plans expenditures of 860.3 billion pesos (about $2.4 billion), which is 31.8 percent more than it spent in 1985. Another decentralized public organization, Azucar S.A., has 1986 programmed expenditures of 516.4 billion pesos ($1.47 billion), followed in importance by Mexican Fertilizers, with 407.4 billion pesos (about $1.16 billion). Finally, National Mexican Railways will spend 357.2 billion pesos ($41 billion), while the Social Service and Security Institute of Government Workers will spend 356.4 billion pesos ($1 billion).

TRADE BALANCE RECORDS $6-BILLION SURPLUS

FL301854 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Nov 85

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 30 Nov (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico's trade balance showed a $6.236-billion surplus during the first 6 months of this year, which is lower than that recorded during the same period in 1984.

The Planning and Budget Secretariat indicated in its preliminary report on Mexico's trade balance between January and October of 1985 that the positive balance was 10.3 percent more than that from January to September during the same year. [as received]

The surplus is the result of $17.862 billion in exports and $11.626 billion in imports, an 11.9-percent drop and 21.7-percent increase, respectively, compared to the same period last year. The secretariat reported that non-oil exports dropped 10.2 percent compared to the same period in 1984, while oil sales decreased 12.7 percent, totaling $10.931 billion.

BRIEFS

FISHERY PRODUCTION -- Fisheries Secretary Pedro Ojeda Paullada today presented a report on fisheries sector work carried out during the first 3 years of the administration of President Miguel de la Madrid. He said that as a result of the implementation of a promotion and development policy, in the past 3 years Mexico has become one of the 20 countries with the highest fishery production in the world. He said that between 1982 and 1985 the sector has had an annual catch of more than 1 million tons. [Summary] [Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Nov 85 PA]

OIL REVENUES DROP -- Mexico City, 25 Nov (EFE) -- According to a Finance Secretariat report, Mexican oil sales revenues abroad dropped by $1,358,000 between January and September 1985. [Excerpt] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 1206 GMT 25 Nov 85 PA]

OIL RESERVES -- The Mexican Petroleum Institute has reported that Mexico has a verified oil reserve of 71.750 billion barrels. However, the deputy director of the institute's production department has cautioned that it is one thing to have reserves and another to have the technology to extract the oil. The official, Apundio Juarez Mendez, said that times are coming when oil will be very expensive and very difficult to extract, because the drilling will have to be done at greater depths. [Summary] [Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Nov 85 PA]

COSTA RICA

GUTIERREZ BLAMES CONTADORA 'FAILURE' ON NICARAGUA

PA291259 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0024 GMT 29 Nov 85

[Excerpts] San Jose, 28 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez said today that Nicaragua is the only one responsible for the failure of the Contadora Group's peace efforts.

The official recalled that while Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia, which comprise Contadora, and the other Central American nations agreed on the approval of a draft resolution by consensus at the UN General Assembly, Nicaragua categorically refused.

The Foreign Minister said that given the impossibility to advance, it was agreed to suspend the efforts "and see what might happen" in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia), where the OAS will hold a general assembly next 5 December.

The foreign minister asserted: "If no agreement is reached here, then the eight countries' draft resolution will be sent to the UN," along with the "paragraph proposed by Nicaragua, and the mediating group's efforts will thus conclude. [no end quotation mark as published]

EL SALVADOR

NATIONAL GUARD RELEASES ARRESTED BRITISH REPORTER

PA272001 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Nov 85

[Text] A British journalist who was arrested in San Jose Guayabal on Sunday was released by the National Guard this afternoon. Here is a report by Yvonne Yanez de Chavez:

[Begin recording] British journalist Simon Fisher, accredited by the Salvadoran Armed Forces, was arrested on Sunday in San Jose Guayabal and taken to the National Guard headquarters by helicopter. According to diplomatic sources, he was arrested on Sunday morning in San Jose Guayabal, located approximately 20 km northeast of San Salvador. Since the middle of last week, the Air Force attacks on the guerrilla positions on the slopes of Guazapa mountain could be seen from that town. When and how did you learn that your husband had been arrested?

[Unidentified woman] Last night, the British consulate called the hotel where we are staying and told me that Simon was under arrest at the National Guard.

[Chavez] Who had told this to the embassy?

[Woman] The National Guard had notified the embassy.

[Chavez] Why do you think your husband was arrested?

[Woman] To tell you the truth, I do not have the slightest idea. He was in San Jose Guayabal to take pictures since there was fighting there. I do not know the reason.

[Chavez] Do you think he might have taken some compromising pictures?

[Woman] Maybe, I don't know. I really don't know why he was arrested.

[Chavez] Wasn't he linked to the guerrillas or any political faction?

[Woman] No. Absolutely not. He had no contact with the guerrillas.

[Chavez] Has the consulate done anything to obtain your husband's release?

[Woman] The National Guard told the consul that they would call him to tell him when they would release Simon and that he should pick him up at the consulate. They said it would be today, but the day is almost gone. [end recording]

For its part, Coprefa [Armed Forces Press Committee] reported that journalist Fisher was arrested because he looked suspicious and because he was driving alone and had not reported that he would visit a zone of conflict. It said that after being investigated he was released in the afternoon and turned over to honorary consul (William Chippendale).

[Begin recording] [Chavez] Mr Fisher, what was the reason for your arrest?

[Fisher] I am not sure, but they have said that they suspected that I was a member or had contact with guerrillas.

[Chavez] Why did they have these suspicions about you?

[Fisher] I don't have any idea. It was just because I was at that place.

[Chavez] Have you ever had any links with any political group or guerrillas?

[Fisher] No, I do not.

[Chavez] Either in our country or in another country?

[Fisher] No.

[Chavez] How were you treated at the National Guard while you were being held?

[Fisher] Well, the problem was that they arrested me but they did not tell me the charges. I think they arrested me illegally because they took me and brought me blindfolded so that I did not know where I was. They did not say that there were specific charges against me, but they questioned me about what I have done since I arrived in the country. They wanted to know everything that I have done since I entered the country. [end recording]

Journalist Fisher told us that all his equipment was returned to him and that despite this experience he will continue working in the country because he is innocent of any charge.

MSGR ROSAS ON VIOLENCE, DIALOGUE ANNIVERSARY

PA022126 San Salvador Television Educativa in Spanish 1230 GMT 2 Dec 85

[Text] Msgr Gregorio Rosas Chavez [auxiliary bishop of San Salvador] has reported that violence claimed 35 lives the past week. He also denounced inhuman interrogations in arrests for political reasons.

[Begin Rosas recording] According to the data gathered by the archbishopric, political violence claimed the lives of 35 Salvadorans. Of these, 26 died in still unsolved circumstances.

In addition to these deaths, which are irreparable, we lament a practice that seems to be on the increase in recent weeks. It is the practice of inhuman interrogations and treatment of some prisoners who are accused of political crimes. These interrogations usually end with a statement that sometimes is totally untrue. The person under arrest is forced to sign such a statement. Some cases are even more serious because the person under arrest cannot even read what he will sign. If this irregularity is not corrected, a shadow will fall over the undeniable efforts that the Armed Forces have carried out to improve the human rights situation.

It is true that four strikes in the public sector have been resolved this week. It is also true that some strikes are not inspired by labor demands but are for political reasons. Nevertheless, the recourse of declaring strikes illegal must be handled with the strictest objectivity. A union leader told me that only a handful of strikes in El Salvador have been declared legal. It has been stressed over and over again that our judicial system leaves much to be desired [end recording]

Msgr Gregorio Rosas Chavez also called for a Christmas and New Year truce and he referred to the first anniversary of the dialogue in Ayagualo, describing it as a syndrome.

[Begin Rosas recording] The anniversary has passed by uneventfully. This is proof that what we describe as the Ayagualo syndrome is far from being overcome. Perhaps that is why some only timidly ask if we should expect a Christmas and New Year truce. The Ayagualo syndrome is all those symptoms that show a hardening of the positions of the parties involved in the conflict. They are symptoms of a disease called intransigence and warmongering. As Salvadorans, and even more if we consider ourselves Christians, we cannot accept that it is an incurable disease. If we accepted it as such, it would mean that we would simply resign ourselves to the continuation of the war indefinitely and to wait for the wave of violence to finish off all of us who are still alive.

However, the solution is not found only by calling for dialogue without going to the bottom of our problems. The solution is not found by calling for dialogue while blaming just one side for the stalemate in the dialogue. We can begin to find a solution only by recognizing the positions of both sides and by being equally critical of the errors of both sides. That is why I am concerned that the groups that have raised this banner of the dialogue are so hard towards the government and so indulgent with the guerrillas. [end recording]

Commentary on Anniversary

PA011917 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 30 Nov 85

[Commentary: "1 Year Since Ayagualo"]

[Text] One year ago today on 30 November, representatives of the government of Engineer Duarte and of our FMLN-FDR met in Ayagualo. Throughout this past year, the government of Engineer Duarte has repeatedly maintained an attitude contrary to the general aspiration of the Salvadoran people to continue the dialogue for peace.

When speaking of peace in the midst of a war, one cannot use empty words, such as Duarte is doing. A year ago in Ayagualo, our fronts, speaking face to face with the people, clearly exposed the deep roots of this conflict; as long as these are not met responsibly, talk of peace will merely continue being a pretext, which could be used either by the government to conceal the genocide, or by the oligarchy to continue unleashing its campaign of terror.

A little over 1 month ago, the representative of the imperialist government, Mr Edward Corr, in the midst of the worst political crisis of Duarte's government, declared that this was not the time to speak of a dialogue between the democratic-revolutionary forces and the Salvadoran regime. In view of this, the statements of Christian Democratic officials have little credibility in relation to the continuation of the dialogue ; in fact, they seem intended to appease the general demand of our people and of the international political forces, which are favoring the renewal of the dialogue.

From the time of the Ayagualo meeting until now, numerous meetings and forums have taken place, sponsored by the most varied political and social sectors of the country, all of which agree in considering dialogue as an unpostponable necessity.

The FDR-FMLN has maintained that the discussion on the causes and the solution of the conflict affecting our people is not exclusively the interest of the parties in conflict, but must be open to all social sectors of our country. In fact, as it is a national problem, the recommendation for a political solution made a year ago has found echoes in the labor, peasant, professional, and educational and other academic, sectors, and in the political and religious sectors.

This contradicts the government's position intended to close all the doors to all perspectives for dialogue, not only with our fronts, but also in the face of the wage and social demands of our people.

Our last proposal on 15 November at Chalatenango, presented by Commander Leonel Gonzalez, is a serious effort to try to approach the problem of peace in our country from a realistic perspective: the existence of two powers, that of the government and that of our fronts, with their respective armies, territoriality, and authority over sectors of the population.

One year after Ayagualo, we maintain that a political solution must be achieved through a continued process, responsibly oriented, and of a global nature; that is, aimed at the structural causes of misery and oppression that triggered the current social armed conflict. We are therefore, firmly determined to continue the dialogue until peace with justice and freedom for the Salvadoran people is achieved.

FARABUNDO MARTI HITS 'STRATEGIC VILLAGES' PLAN

PA291535 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 28 Nov 85

[Text] Plan 1,000 is the plan for 1,000 strategic villages. In Vietnam, the U.S. Army also tried to separate the guerrillas from the people by creating thousands of strategic villages throughout South Vietnam. The idea was to concentrate the peasants and to have them constantly under surveillance after uprooting them from their land. This plan was defeated by the Vietnamese people in their heroic struggle against Yankee intervention.

With the same objectives as in Vietnam, imperialism is creating strategic villages in El Salvador. The implementation of this project is being carried out through the so-called Plan 1,000. Plan 1,000 is financed by the Agency for International Development, AID, which is the U.S. Government organization in charge of taking the U.S. imperialist policy to the dependent nations.

The AID has allocated a $100 million credit for the construction of 1,000 villages for displaced people. The strategic villages will initially house the people who have been uprooted from their birthplaces by the puppet Army's operations. Plan 1,000 is a political-military project that falls within the U.S. counterinsurgency plan and, therefore, it has political and military aspects.

The military part of Plan 1,000 has begun with the operations and bombings by the puppet Armed Forces in populated areas of Cabanas, Morazan, Cuscatlan, Chalatenango, San Miguel, and other departments. The immediate objective of these operations and bombings is depopulation, in other words, to uproot the peasants from their land. Afterwards, the Army, in conjunction with such agencies as Conade [National Commission for Aid to Displaced Persons], Codera [Departmental Committee for Restoration of Areas], and Comura [expansion unknown] concentrates the displaced population in large concentration camps. All of these agencies that we have mentioned, Conade, Comura, Codera, etc. are coordinated directly by the AID, which directs the entire plan to create the strategic villages.

In these shelters or strategic villages, the displaced people are systematically bombarded with the propaganda of Plan 1,000 to make them believe that the FMLN is their enemy and that the puppet Army is their friend. In these centers, these people, who have in fact been displaced by the action of the puppet Army, suffer all types of diseases, deficiencies, and ailments. Despite the costly propaganda by the AID to conceal its project, the wretched living conditions of the displaced persons in these centers are well-known.

ARMY REPORTS 73 REBELS KILLED DURING NOVEMBER

PA300400 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1947 GMT 29 Nov 85

[Text] San Salvador, 29 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- Military sources reported today that 94 soldiers and guerrillas were killed in combat in various locations in the country during the month of November.

A Defense Ministry spokesman said that during the past 28 days, 73 guerrillas were killed during clashes with army units, 49 others were wounded, and 308 were captured. The security organizations have released 25 percent of those taken prisoner.

The source indicated that the Armed Forces suffered 21 dead, 134 wounded, and 2 missing in action. Of the total of the Armed Forces casualties, 4 were killed and 43 were injured by the explosion of mines planted by rebels in areas of conflict. During this month, the Army carried out nine major, two medium-sized, and two airborne operations. The source also explained that major operations include those lasting between 3 and 8 days and that minor operations last less than 72 hours. All the operations are part of the overall operations plan designed by the joint staff.

As of the end of November, the Army has lost 24 weapons, including 18 M-16 rifles, an AR-15 rifle, three grenade launchers, and a machinegun.

The airborne operations were executed on Guazapa Hill, 24 km from San Salvador, and Nueva Concepcion, Chalatenango, in the country's north. The source reported that during the operation at Guazapa -- located near San Salvador and the site the most important guerrilla bastion -- the Army suffered 9 casualties and the guerrillas close to 20, including dead and wounded.

The guerrillas recently reported that, during the Guazapa operation, the Army suffered 36 casualties, including dead and wounded, most of them by mines and ambushes. The military spokesman has reported that in Guazapa the air force bombs rebel positions in El Salitre and Los Lirios, "unpopulated areas."

The FMLN has described last week's action in Guazapa as "scandalous and indiscriminate bombing," but did not report dead or wounded among the civilians. FMLN leaders reported no casualties during the Guazapa operation. The official report indicates that in Guazapa the Army dismantled a clandestine hospital and located eight rebel hideouts where they found arms, foodstuffs, and "valuable" documents that the Army is studying.

ARMY DISMANTLES CLANDESTINE HOSPITAL IN GUAZAPA

PA302252 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 30 Nov 85 pp 4, 35

[Text] According to a report issued yesterday by Armed Forces spokesmen, the Army dismantled a clandestine hospital during a joint operation carried out on the slopes of Guazapa Hill on Thursday, 21 November, at 0530.

The Army operation was implemented after military intelligence learned that a meeting of commanders was scheduled to take place that day to plan terrorist actions in urban areas. First, the Air Force carried out a bombing operation to "soften" the area; afterward, airborne and infantry units headed for the El Salitre and Los Lirios cantons, where, besides the hospital, the terrorists had several caches of medicine, weapons, ammunition, and documents that are being analyzed, our informant said.

In this operation, there were eight confirmed terrorist casualties. Twelve recently-dug graves were found, which suggests that there were more dead. As for the Army there were only some injuries.

The Army controlled all possible escape routes that the terrorists could use that area and ruled out the possibility of any civilian victims because there is no civilian population in that region.

In reporting on November operations, the Armed Forces said that the terrorists sustained 94 dead in combat and lost a large amount of war materiel, including rifles, machineguns, and other weapons. During the Guazapa operation, the Army also destroyed a Radio Farabundo Marti relay station, disabling it for several days. Army spokesmen said that several factors are taken into consideration, including the protection of the peasant population from the bombings, when this kind of operation is carried out. The operation was a success, they said in conclusion.

GUATEMALA

U.S. ENVOY ACCUSED OF 'MEDDLING' IN ELECTIONS

PA022025 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 30 Nov 85 p 5

[Text] On behalf of the rightist sectors, Mario Sandoval Alarcon, former presidential candidate of the National Liberation Movement [MLN] and the Democratic Institutional Party, has again charged that U.S. Ambassador Alberto Piedra meddled in the elections, and has reiterated that there was fraud in the elections.

One of the arguments presented by Sandoval Alarcon, president-for-life of the MLN, was that the paper used for the ballots contained chemicals that could alter the results. As of yesterday, U.S. Embassy spokesmen still had not commented on the MLN leader's statements.

'FOREIGNERS' SAID TO OPERATE WITH GUERRILLAS

PA030001 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 1 Dec 85 p 3

[Text] Tzutujiles and "foreigners" constitute a strange mixture. Security forces feel sure that foreigners operate in this region. Although a national police garrison and an Army detachment operate here, the number of men is far too low and they must double their efforts in spite of the risk of their being attacked any moment.

The garrison's location is not the best. When guerrillas reached downtown Santiago Atitlan early on 15 November, the garrison was surrounded and attacked from various sides. The garrison was shot at from the square and street corners. The attack lasted 1 and 1/2 hours. One of the rebels, described as a 17-year-old boy, insulted the officers and subordinates with dirty words.

Aborigines Among the Guerrillas

According to reports from the police's secret service, Indians and some "foreigners" participate in the guerrilla's activities. The garrison commander feels "these are people from the outside." The latest case of abduction involved several Indians who even spoke in their own dialect, according to relatives. The guerrillas' arrival in the municipality can happen any time, particularly at night. As a result of this, the few policemen must make special efforts, as has been mentioned previously.

Fear and Abduction

It is feared that the rebels might attack the village, as happened on 25 January, when they reached downtown and set fire to the building where the municipal offices, police garrison, post office, and National Agricultural Bank branch were located.

The marks of the attack are still evident 10 months after it occurred. In the building's rubble, there still remain charred documents and furniture. Some families fear that the guerrillas will occupy dwellings. On Monday, a merchant was violently kidnapped by a leftist group. His whereabouts are still unknown.

'ALLEGED GUERRILLAS' KILL MILITARY COMMISSIONER

PA022108 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 30 Nov 85 pp 8, 44

[Text] The Palin, Nuevo Progreso military commissioner was murdered on Thursday by a group of alleged guerrillas who shot him to death in front of eight of his children and his wife at his home.

According to relatives of the victim, who has been identified as Pablo Archila Cifuentes, the about 25 unidentified men who arrived at the village wore uniforms similar to those of the Guatemalan Army.

His widow, Margarita Guzman, attributed his murder to his activities as a recruiter for the Army.

She also said that she believed her husband's killers to be members of the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms, although she cannot prove it. Finally, she said that the murder occurred in front of her daughters and that her three boys were not at home at the time.

GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES INCREASE IN ATITLAN

PA022152 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 1 Dec 85 p 3

[By a special correspondent]

[Text] Santiago Atitlan, Solola, 30 Nov, "Journalist's Day." -- This municipality and those of neighboring Suchitepequez Department are some of the most conflict-ridden areas due to the increased extreme leftist guerrillas' activities.

This has been reported by security officers, local residents, and merchants, who have commented on the harm done by the rebels, whose very presence constitutes a latent threat. With its 25,000 inhabitants, according to a census taken by the General Statistics Directorate in 1980, Santiago Atitlan is frequently attacked by extremists, whose favorite refuge is the slopes of the San Pedro Volcano and small areas of the so-called Cerro de Oro.

PSD, PNR MAINTAIN LEGAL STATUS AFTER ELECTIONS

PA291320 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2022 GMT 28 Nov 85

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 Nov (DPA) -- The Democratic Socialist Party (PSD) and the National Renovating Party (PNR) will not lose their legal status for not obtaining a minimum of 4 percent of the total votes in the general elections held in Guatemala on 3 November, it was reported today.

Those parties will not be eliminated because yesterday the National Constituent Assembly approved an amendment to the Electoral and Political Parties Law in their favor. Originally, the law stated that the parties not obtaining a minimum of 4 percent of the total votes in the past elections would be automatically eliminated. However, the approved amendment specifies that this norm will not be applicable if such parties obtain representation in the Legislative Congress. The PSD obtained two congressional seats in the past elections, while the PNR got one.

The Guatemalan Christian Democracy (DCG) of a moderate-left tendency, obtained 51 elected deputies; the Union of the National Center (UCN) 22; the rightist coalition National Liberation Movement-Democratic Institutional Party (MLN-PID) 12; the Democratic Party of National Cooperation-Revolutionary Party coalition (PDCN-PR) 11; the PSD 2; the Nationalist Authentic Central (CAN) 1, and the PNR 1 also.

Meanwhile, the coalition of rightist parties Anticommunist Unification Party-Emerging Movement for Harmony-National Unity Front (PUA-MEC-FUN) that neither managed to obtain the 4 percent minimum nor any congressional seat, was automatically eliminated. Nevertheless, in the future those parties may again request their registration as legal institutions.

3 REBELS, 3 SOLDIERS KILLED IN QUICHE CLASH

PA262059 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 26 Nov 85 p 8

[Text] Three rebels and three soldiers of a military patrol died following an armed clash north of Playa Grande, Quiche, near the Cuatro Pueblos village, which took plac day before yesterday in the afternoon hours, the Army Public Relations Office reported in a communique.

Bulletin No 267-85 states that the military patrol attacked by the subversives was involved in vigilance activities north of Playa Grande, Quiche. The patrolmen were ambushed upon arriving at the Cuatro Pueblos village in the same jurisdiction. In repelling the action, three subversives and three soldiers were killed.

The communique adds that it is certain that several rebels were wounded during the clash and were taken away to the mountains by their comrades. The weapons recovered from the subversives killed are of the AR-15 model, with sufficient ammunition, which can only be obtained abroad, particularly from socialist countries.

According to Ceriqua, [Guatemalan External News Center] it was learned here yesterday that units of the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) occupied a stretch of road from the departmental capital city of Flores to the Tikal National Park.

During the action, the rebels paralyzed traffic by maintaining a barricade for 2 and 1/2 hours, during which time they distributed revolutionary propaganda and protested the nature of the electoral process promoted by the military regime, the report concluded.

HONDURAS

HIJACKED PLANE, PILOT TURNED OVER TO NICARAGUA

PA292020 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 29 Nov 85

[Text] Nicaraguan pilot Argen Quezada and the Cessna 310, which was hijacked in Nicaragua and brought to Honduras on 13 September, were turned over to Nicaragua yesterday. Julio Garcia, director of international treaties, turned over the pilot and the plane to the Nicaraguan ambassador at Toncontin Airport yesterday afternoon. The action was the result of an exchange agreement between the two governments.

In exchange for the pilot and the plans, Nicaragua yesterday turned over to Honduras 24 Honduran fishermen in Bluefields, Zelaya Department. The possibility exists that Hondurans being held in Nicaragua and Nicaraguans being held in Honduras might be exchanged in the future. Here are remarks by Nicaraguan Ambassador to Honduras Danilo Abud Divas [name as heard]:

[Begin recording] [Abud] As you will recall, this light plane was hijacked and its pilot was forced to come to Honduras on 13 September. According to international law, this plane should have been immediately returned. There was no reason why the Honduran Government should have retained it so long, in view of the fact that it was brought here as a result of air piracy that can be (?termed) international terrorism. They are now returning it after negotiations. As a gesture of good will towards the Honduran Government, we are turning over two vessels and 24 fishermen seized on Nicaraguan waters at the end of September. I say that it is a gesture of good will because we were justified in arresting these fishermen because they were illegally fishing in Nicaraguan waters.

[Question] It has been learned that there will be a similar exchange between Honduras and Nicaragua with regard to the kidnapped teachers being held by the Somozists in a camp in Las Vegas. What will Nicaragua turn over to Honduras in exchange for the teachers?

[Abud] Yes, Nicaragua has proposed this to Honduras. We asked for Honduras' cooperation in locating and protecting the lives of these young people whose only crime has been to take education to Nicaragua's rural areas. They were kidnapped in September and October 1984 by the Somozists mercenary counterrevolutionaries and brought to their camps in Honduran territory. We have proposed an exchange. We are willing to turn over 2 more boats and 21 fishermen we are holding. This should be included in negotiations for an overall exchange of other vessels of the Nicaraguan Fishing Institute that Honduras is holding and other vessels that Nicaragua has seized. There has also been talk of the possibility of an overall exchange of prisoners [words indistinct] held by both countries. [end recording]

USAID ATTEMPTING 'TO STRANGLE' COUNTRY'S ECONOMY

PA302239 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2021 GMT 30 Nov 85

[By Armando Cerrato]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 30 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- The U.S. Government is trying to "strangle" the Honduran economy by means of pressure exerted by the Agency for International Development [AID].

A high ranking member of the Honduran Government's economic cabinet made this charge here today, and asked that he not be quoted to prevent friction with the organization.

He explained that the United States is bent "on using hunger to defeat a worthy and courageous position of not allowing national territory to be used as a spring-board to give aid to the anti-Sandinist counterrevolutionary forces."

These anti-Sandinist forces are reportedly fighting in Nicaragua. They are the ones receiving the aid that the United States began sending on 10 October.

On 10 October, the Honduran Army prevented a 14-ton shipment brought from New Orleans in a DC-6 aircraft from reaching its destination.

The shipment was returned to its place of origin in the United States on 15 October following a strong protest issued by the Honduran Government to the U.S. Government. The Honduran Government protested because it was not advised of this flight, the pilot did not have a flight plan, he penetrated Honduran airspace without permission, and was also bringing television reporters.

From that moment, AID, the organization that approved a $147.5 million disbursement for Honduras more than a year ago, began to exert strong pressure on this country. The AID has refused to give $82 million that is still pending from the loan approved for Honduras last year, of which $35 million was due in September and October.

The IDB is also withholding $40 million promised to Honduras. The IDP representatives who have met with the Honduran Government have stated that all the technical studies for the loan to be granted are favorable for the country and only political approval is pending before the board of directors receives the resolution. The resolution is being held by orders of Jose Manuel Casanova, director for Latin America, who is waiting for Honduras to reach an agreement with AID.

The agency has also gotten the IDB; the Central American Bank of Economic Integration (BCIE), the organization whose president is Dante Gabriel Ramirez, a Honduran citizen; the IMF: and Texaco, a U.S. refinery located on the Honduran Atlantic coast, to exert pressure on this country.

The pressure exerted by these organizations becomes evident in an attempt to make Honduras pay 31 million, in dollars, with the pretext that if Honduras does not it would show its lack of seriousness and that they would restrict the credits.

The Honduran Government has paid the IDB $7.5 million, Texaco Refinery $7.5 million, $3.5 million to the IMF, $5 million to the World Bank, and $7.5 million to the BCIE.

The official who provided ACAN-EFE with this information said that "we have plucked up courage" and "we will not give in." He also charged that, through Costa Rica, AID is attempting to create an organization that would handle the Central American economies in accordance with the interests of the United States.

COMMENTARY VIEWS POST-ELECTORAL 'SCUFFLES'

PA300050 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 29 Nov 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] The post-electoral scuffles have begun. Despite the good image that Sunday's elections gave Honduras, this has not been able to calm the political momentum. Polls carried out prior to the elections showed that Jose Azcona and the Liberal Party would win by a majority. Now we have started hearing comments to the effect that the new government will be weak because the candidate who won the elections will not be able to come to an agreement with his own party and have control of the National Assembly. These comments, which are already spreading to several groups, show that in a deeply divided country a political party that wins the elections cannot form a single front in the National Assembly to ensure its own majority.

How can it be possible that even though the Liberal Party won the elections, it cannot control the National Assembly? It is being said that Azcona del Hoyo must come to an understanding with his adversaries before he can gain control of the National Assembly because he will not he able to get the members of his own party, the Suazo Cordovistas and the Bugironistas to help him form a single bloc. This is unheard of. The party that wins the elections should have a majority of seats in a National Assembly as small as ours; however, only in Honduras do we see that even though a specific party won a majority of seats, this deeply divided party is showing itself as if it were three small parties with different goals and objectives instead of as one party.

If Azcona del Hoyo's liberals must first come to an understanding with its National Party adversaries before coming to an understanding with its own party members, the Suazo Cordovistas and Bugironistas, then we must admit that the liberal Party's victory has been a precarious one and that the truth is that this is a divided party that is rapidly weakening.

This difficult situation that places president-elect Jose Azcona as the head of a government with a very precarious power is illogical, immoral, and unethical. If to seek their revenge from Mr Azcona the Suazo Cordovista deputies are willing to make him kneel and even bite the dust, then we are not facing a group of politicians who love their party but a handful of greedy men who first seek to satisfy their private interests and use the party to obtain an office and make money. If this is true, if it is truethat the Suazo Cordovista deputies will go against Azcona at the new National Assembly, then the new president will be in deep trouble. However, if the new president does not come to an understanding with his own party members, we do not see why Mr Azcona must worry. What the Hondurans want is an independent National Assembly, a National Assembly that is not committed to taking orders from another branch. Why have other presidents wanted the control of the National Assembly and the Supreme Court of Justice? Why? To do as they pleased, in detriment of the Constitution and the sacred interests of the homeland.

The Salvadoran Army came into Honduras and established itself as if it were at home and this was not seriously or previously discussed by the National Assembly. They were able to do this because a military chief had more power than the administration, and at that time everyone, even the president, was afraid to go against General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez. If the dream of humiliating the opposition is based on having a crushing majority in the National Assembly, if this is where the precarious situation of power is located, then we are glad that the next government will be weak. We have already seen that the strength of President Suazo Cordova's government was based on having complete control of power; it had a submissive National Assembly and an unconditional Supreme Court of Justice. Strength for what? In the end that strength was broken into tiny pieces after the president had his differences with Bu Giron. A simple difference between two leaders of the same party gave birth to a national political crisis that cast a shadow over the whole country and endangered the democratic process.

If the idea of having a crushing majority in the National Assembly is only aimed at causing more problems, manipulating minds, and forging sterile machines, then welcome to the division that will only help curb those who could believe that the nation is pseudopartisan. This division within the National Assembly will be the strong center of balance that will prevent that institution from making the same regrettable mistakes. However, this will be the case as long as deputies who will oppose the executive branch do so in defense of national interests and not to defend the interests of their parties or their private interests.

What good would a harmonious National Assembly do if we again fall into that terrible situation of having an Assembly tied to the whims of one person? The difference between a democracy and a totalitarian regime is the independence of its powers -- an independence we did not have in Honduras during the first 3 years of this administration when above the National Assembly and the Supreme Court of Justice we had the decision of President Suazo Cordova, and above the president's decision, whatever Gen Gustavo Alvarez Martinez wanted. Then, why aim for absolute control of the National Assembly. The new president-elect, Jose Azcona, has already said that he will never attempt to maneuver the other branches of state and that he will not impose his candidates on them. The only problem we see is that Azcona's party members themselves prefer to seek an alliance with other parties to make the man who clearly defeated them in Sunday's election bite the dust. This is the only problem we see. We do not think it is correct; it is immoral and contemptible. However, the fact that the new government will be precarious as a result of this is good because we will finally see our wishes come true: At last we will have an independent National Assembly and Supreme Court of Justice.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA ADDRESSES DEMOBILIZATION CEREMONY

PA030118 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2252 GMT 2 Dec 85

[Speech by President and Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra at the ceremony to welcome the first contingent of demobilized Patriotic Military Service youths held at the Plaza of the Revolution in Managua -- live]

[Text] Today is a historic day. Practically every day we celebrate new victories. However, today is a historic day because we are celebrating a new victory of the revolution. Today represents the successful response of the heroism of Sandino's people in the face of the brutal U.S. aggression. Our enemies would have preferred never to see this day, 2 December. Our enemies would have preferred to see none of the thousands of youths mobilized on the war fronts return to their homes. They would have preferred to see the youths who remained in the rearguard remain in the rearguard and never join the Patriotic Military Service [SMP]. Our enemies would have preferred to see this plaza empty on 2 December 1985. However this plaza is filled with the physical and combative presence of the youths who today have been demobilized after completing their SP. This plaza is also filled with the combative spirit of those youths who today picked up their rifles to continue the task that yesterday was carried out by our brothers in the SMP. [applause]

This is Nicaragua's response; the response of any nation being attacked by those who traditionally have tried to oppress, dominate, and exploit our people. We are waging a national war because our interests are at stake; because the North American Military power that attacked Nicaragua during the past century is the same military power that today is bent on subjecting our people to a state of slavery.

This is a national war because all the interests of the nation are at stake, because all the interests of the nation are threatened by the United States' aggressive policy. When the combatants of the people mobilized in the SMP, when the permanent troops are mobilized, when the reserve battalions are mobilized, and when the militia is mobilized, it is the people who are mobilizing to defend the sovereignty of the homeland, to defend our self-determination and our independence.

It is the people who are mobilizing to defend the right of the people to have schools, health centers; it is the people who are mobilizing to defend the right of the people to have their own home, land; it is the people who are mobilizing to defend the right of the people to organize freely, to express themselves freely; it is the people who are mobilizing to defend the right of the people to uphold this regime of mixed economy and political pluralism which defends the right of the workers and peasants. This is why we say that the effort of the Nicaraguan youths who are mobilized in the SMP is an effort headed toward defending the national interests. However, the workers and the peasants alone cannot defend the national interests. These interests must be defended by all sectors of the nation. We cannot accept comfortable and opportunistic attitudes and positions from some sectors who survive and give thanks to the revolution yet are enemies of the revolution, enemies of the SMP, and enemies of the defense of the revolution.

Every Nicaraguan, without distinction of any kind, has the duty of defending the homeland. This is why when the SMP summoned the Nicaraguan youths, their response was one of a high combative readiness.

We are not going to forget the problems we had to face, the difficulties we confronted during the first few months after the summons was made. We are not going to forget our own mistakes and limitations which we overcome little by little. And we are not going to forget the attitude of our enemies, the attitude of the U.S. Government and its accomplices in Nicaragua who launched a campaign to discredit the SMP. They launched a campaign of slander and lies in order to demoralize the youths and to keep the youths from mobilizing. They launched their campaign for the families not to support the mobilization of the youths. The attitude of our enemies was quite logical. Logical from the viewpoint of their philosophy and their attempts to destroy the Sandinist people's revolution. Their goal was to demobilize the people and had they been successful, this would have favored the imperialist aggression.

If thousands of Nicaraguan youths had not responded to the summons of the SMP, if you companeros had not responded to the summons, surely the U.S. plans and its policy of terror and destruction of the Nicaraguan people would have advanced. Had you not responded to the summons, instead of waging clashes near the border, instead of halting and defeating the enemy at the border, right now we would be fighting in the areas surrounding our cities, if not in our cities.

Our enemies did not want to see our youths mobilized, they did not want the youths to respond to the summons. Our enemies put forth strong efforts, local and international campaigns against the revolution. For their local campaigns they used the traitorous sectors, the same sectors that applauded the landing of the filibusters in the past, the same sectors that supported the Yankee invasion in (?1902). They used the same traitorous minority sectors who supported the Yankee invasion when Sandino rose to defend the dignity of the Nicaraguan people.

The battle had to be waged and was won by those who historically had to win it. The Yankee invaders were not able to win the battle despite their power; the battle could not be won by the traitorous men; it had to be won by the people and was won by the people.

Brother combatants, this is why you are here this afternoon, demobilized and handing your rifles over to the new combatants who will mobilize in the SMP. [applause]

When we are fighting with weapons in our hands we are fighting against death. We are fighting against war. You and I, we do not want war. We are enemies of war and friends of peace. And because we want peace, we have been forced to take up arms. Those making war on us come from abroad; those who make war on us are supported, directed, and financed by the U.S. Government. They are the instruments of the U.S. Government. They are the mercenary forces. They are the instrument of the aggression and no one can doubt who is making war on Nicaragua. The U.S. Government is the one making war against Nicaragua. We are struggling for peace when we take up our rifles, when we organize our battalions for unconventional warfare we are struggling for peace, when we are confronting, fighting, and defeating the mercenary forces. We are struggling for peace by risking our lives and giving our lives in daily combat.

We are fighting for peace with our training, our combat readiness, our marches in the mountains in the rain, in combat without weekends, without days off, without Christmas festivities. We are struggling for peace, and the sooner we defeat the mercenary forces, the sooner the entire organized and armed people become ready for combat, the closer we will be to peace. This love of peace, this will to achieve peace, this decision to attain peace, made by the Nicaraguan people, has been echoed by the people of Latin America. By the people of Latin America and the Caribbean, by the people of Europe, Asia, Africa, by the very people of the United States. They have joined the universal clamor calling for peace, claiming peace, demanding peace for Nicaragua.

They are demanding that the U.S. Government stop its terrorist and aggressive policy against the Nicaraguan people. This demand made by the people of Latin America and the world has also been received by some governments in Latin America and the world. The Contadora Group's efforts to achieve peace are well known. Also well known is the attitude in favor of peace adopted by the Contadora Group support group. Eight Latin American countries, Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, and Brazil are demanding peace. However, the United States, the U.S. Government, has tried to commit the Latin American leaders, to commit leaders from other regions to its policy of state terrorism against Nicaragua. The Latin American people are demanding peace, the Contadora Group is lending an ear to this demand, and the United States is acting against peace, against every effort to achieve peace, trying to kill Contadora; that is, trying to kill the hope for Latin American unity.

At this point, Latin America in particular is waging a battle whose consequences will be decisive for the future of our peoples. The sovereignty we are defending in Nicaragua, with the blood of the Nicaraguan people is the sovereignty not only of Nicaragua but the sovereignty of Central America, the sovereignty of Latin America and the Caribbean, the sovereignty of the developing peoples. The United States is trying to deny this right to the peoples of Latin America. It is blackmailing, pressuring, and threatening, to the point of boycotting the Contadora Group's efforts at the United Nations to have a resolution emerge from there, which merely calls for peace and which, of necessity, must ask the U.S. Government to acknowledge its terrorist policy against Nicaragua.

He who is being attacked cannot be denied the right to say that he is being attacked. Nicaragua is defending an elementary right, the right to say that we are being attacked by those who do not care to conceal the fact that they are attacking us. Where was $27 million approved to continue the attack against the Nicaraguan people? It was approved in the U.S. Congress, at the U.S. Congress, at the U.S. President's request. Where was the use of those funds approved in recent weeks, so the mercenaries can have air, land, and maritime transportation, so the mercenaries may, therefore, receive planes with which to continue carrying out terrorist actions against our people? Where was this approved? Where was this discussed, where was it debated? It was discussed and approved in the U.S. Congress. This is truly a cause for alarm. Above all, this should draw the attention of Latin America, it should seriously draw its attention, because the stand adopted by the U.S. Congress is setting precedents, as today they are approving funds to launch terrorist actions against the N caraguan people, tomorrow they may approve funds to launch terrorist actions against any Latin American government that U.S. imperialsim does not like.

An OAS meeting is currently underway in Colombia. The Latin American representatives have a great historic responsibility because the future of the Latin American peoples is being debated precisely around the issue of the agression against the Nicaraguan people. To the extent that we, Latin Americans, close ranks like Bolivar dreamed, we will become stronger in order to defeat that terrorist policy and make the U.S. leaders understand that Latin America and the Caribbean are no longer U.S. colonies or neocolonies.

The Latin American leaders have a great responsibility at this point. If the United States is openly attacking Nicaragua, if the United States, using first and last names, is publicly debating and approving aggression against Nicaragua, why should Latin America not dare to mention by name those who are attacking Nicaragua and demand wisdom and an end to this aggressive policy from those who are attacking Nicaragua?

These are the honorable, just, and firm positions defended by the Latin American peoples. These are the honorable, just, and firm positions defended by the Nicaraguan people. We harbor the hope -- we do not wish to lose the hope -- that the Latin American representatives meeting in Colombia will adopt a Latin American position.

Either we act today with energy, firmness, clarity, and dignity, and clearly tell the United States that it is making a mistake with Nicaragua and, therefore, that it is making a mistake with Latin America; either it is demanded that the United States put an end to the aggression, that it negotiate with Nicaragua in order to normalize relations -- thus moving closer to the chances for peace -- or we remain silent, which may lead to further deterioration of the regional situation.

Otherwise, the U.S. leaders would not only be encouraged by the fact that they have advanced domestically by adding the U.S. Congress to their terrorist policy against Nicaragua, but they will believe, they will assume, that the Latin American governments are supporting them in their policy against Nicaragua.

We are sure that the Latin American governments do not approve of the U.S. leaders' terrorist policy, that they neither approve of it now nor will they approve of it in the future. True, the chances for regional peace bascially lie with us, Nicaraguans. To the extent that we defeat the aggressors, we are moving closer to those chances for peace. But the chances for peace also lie with the stand that may be adopted by Latin America.

Amid these peace efforts, you have been struggling, you have been fighting, and today you are being demobilized. But we understand demobilization in the war situation currently experienced by Nicaragua as active demobilization; that is, you are not going home now thinking that the war is now over. You, better than anyone else, know that the war is not over. Therefore, along with your integration into the various tasks -- in productive work, in the picking of coffee or cotton, the cutting of sugarcane, or in educational and cultural activities aimed at achieving personal improvement -- you will have to remain permanently active and ready to defend the revolution, to defend it with your production and with your rifles as well. As for you, you will take the place of the demobilized combatants. We are sure that you will know how to honor that place. We are sure you will know how to fight, we are sure you will have the discipline needed to advance in the tasks to be undertaken.

Santos Lopez joined Sandino's army very young. Francisco Moreno was another boy who joined the fight for the FSLN at 17. They were boys, young people mobilizing them in the patriotic military service.[applause] Of course, it was a patriotic military service under more complex conditions because there was no limit to the duration of this service. It was not a 2-year patriotic military service. No, the [word indistinct] (?rendered) by Santos Lopez called for fighting until the Yankees were expelled; later it would be necessary to fight until Somoza was overthrown. And the patriotic military service that Franciso Moreno had to render called for fighting until the imperialist domination of Somoza was defeated. Neither Santos Lopez nor Francisco Moreno had war weapons. They would have liked to have rifles like the ones you are carrying, but they had hunting weapons. And neither Santos Lopez nor Francisco Moreno had any uniforms. The people's army, the vanguard, was very small then. At that time, Santos Lopez and Francisco Moreno wore raggedy clothes of various colors that had to last as long as they had to hold out there, during long campaigns.

There were no boots, either. Every 3 or 6 months they got a pair of boots, if at all, or went barefoot. Santos Lopez and Francisco Moreno died before the revolution's victory. However, they were decisive factors in the struggle waged by our people. They were actors in and authors of the revolutionary victory. They were with us, too, on 19 July at this very same square when the triumphant people celebrated the revolutionary victory. They are also here today with us.

So many companeros have died in combat like Santos Lopez and Franciso Moreno during these 2 years of military service! So many companeros, so many brothers, so many young people have shed their blood for the homeland, for the revolution. They are not physically with us today. However, like Santos Lopez and Francisco Moreno, they have been actors and authors of this revolutionary process. They have also been part of this struggle, of the fighting, and are here today with us commemorating this victory.

There was a fallen companero whose name was Roberto Sarria. He fell in Yali, in November of last year, as a matter of fact.

He was 20 years old and was serving in the patriotic military service. Before that, when he was very young, he was active in the literacy campaign. He was now in the patriotic military service. He wrote his mother while in Mulukuku. He said: Every passing day is a new experience here. A hero is always on a combat footing and ready for everything. I must admit that I miss you, and I always remember you. This makes me more selfless in the exercises, more self-sacrificing, and more of a fighter for your sake, for my homeland, and for our revolution.

He went on to say when he was assigned to the Santos Lopex BLI [Battalion for Unconventional Warfare], speaking for his comrades: [We are] Sandino's cubs, who have the courage and endure sacrifices for days, weeks, and months away from our families and face other limitations because of the aggression which the U.S. Government has maintained and continues maintaining against our revolutionary people. And he told his family: I give you my hands although they are somewhat weatherbeaten. Some corns are developing on them, which are part of our work [words indistinct] dirt. They are the hands of soldier students. I give them to you. I give them to my homeland, my mother revolution. My health is good and I am determined to win or die. Roberto E. Sarria. [applause]

And what did his mother write after his death? My son, it has been a year since you left us. Every day I feel sorrow, [words indistinct] tears, the need to have you with us, and also pride that although you were ours you wanted to belong to everyone. I have tried to be as brave and optimistic as you were. I am trying to survive through love, service, and understanding for others and not to live in the desolate house of defeat. I want to humanize my sorrow and make it worthy of you. The joy, the hopes, your dream of living your future which looked promising went with your 20 years. And you, in the name of peace, surrendered that unique and grandiose project of your life and; with it, a large part of ours. During this year, which has sometimes been slow and sometimes fast, we have received affection and solidarity from those who knew how to be our friends and who supported us and gave us a fraternal and loving embrace. How many sincere tears have been shed in their sorrow and how much they want to learn about your life, which was full of wonderful and unforgettable details! I thank all of them, for you and for us.

Once more, I wish to offer today my honor and to pray so that peace will come to our Nicaragua; so that our youths may enjoy the healthy joy of their youthfulness; so that we, the elders, may [word indistinct] their lives; and so never again will there be parents without hope and mothers with a mutilated soul. My son, may the seed of your self-sacrifice make something as precious and great as peace grow in this land. I kiss you with love, Mother. [applause]

Today we tell Santos Lopez, Francisco Moreno, Roberto Sarria, and all of the companeros who have fallen in combat while serving in the Patriotic Military Service that we will continue to struggle for peace, so that the mothers, the Nicaraguan family, will no longer continue suffering; we will continue struggling for peace with determination, self-sacrifice, and combat readiness. Today we say to our heroes and martyrs that Nicaragua's youth is ready and willing to continue striving for peace and to continue striving for peace today, in daily clashes at the war fronts; to continue striving for peace today in the Patriotic Military Service; to continue striving for peace today in the coffee, cotton, and sugarcane harvests, and in production.

We are going to continue striving for peace, and we will achieve peace because Nicaragua is full of youths who want and love peace, and who because they are worthy of being Sandino's cubs, are prepared to fight, to win or die under the slogan of "Free Fatherland or Die for Nicaragua." [applause and chants]

GOVERNMENT REPORTS ATTACKS FROM COSTA RICA

PA030345 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 27 Nov 85 p 3

[Text] In an official note to Costa Rica, the Nicaraguan Government reports that "it has been the victim of attacks from mercenary forces stationed in Costa Rica."

The note signed by acting Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco is the reply to the Costa Rican protest note of "two Sandinist Air Force helicopters violating Costa Rican airspace a few days ago." After calling the Costa Rican foreign minister a liar, acting Foreign Minister Tinoco said that "Nicaragua is respectful of other countries' sovereignty."

In his note, Tinoco says: "The territory and the people of Nicaragua have been the victims of the mercenary forces' attacks from Costa Rican territory. To prove my point, there were nine attacks from 19 October to 4 November against Nicaragua from Costa Rican territory, mainly in the sectors of La Penca, Boca San Carlos, El Delta, Rio San Juan, and Cano Machado."

Nicaragua accused Foreign Minister Gutierrez of distorting Nicaragua's positions. In his note, the Nicaraguan acting foreign minister insists on "a demilitarized zone between Costa Rica and Nicaragua." Finally, Tinoco categorically rejects Foreign Minister Gutierrez' accusation "due to the lack of foundation."

ENVOY TO COSTA RICA CHARGES IMMUNITY VIOLATION

PA300418 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0129 GMT 30 Nov 85

[Text] San Jose, 29 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- Today before the Costa Rican Justice Department Leonor Arguello de Hupper, Nicaraguan ambassador to Costa Rica, accused a local newspaper of publishing an apocryphal letter with her signature as genuine.

A source close to the Nicaraguan diplomatic mission said that the newspaper LA REPUBLICA was accused, as the ambassador's attorney indicated, of violating her immunity.

Meanwhile, the Nicaraguan Embassy insists that the publication is part of a campaign promoted by interests alien to Costa Rica and Nicaragua that are trying to break up the two countries, and "they are resorting to every illegal and unethical means, including lies and forgery to obtain their objective."

According to the same source, the campaign "is intended to make the Costa Ricans believe that the Sandinist government is meddling in Costa Rica's internal affairs and that personalities, such as Jose Figueres Ferrer, are lending themselves to this game." In the document that has been described as false, Ambassador Leonor Arguello de Hupper thanks former president Figueres "for his constant efforts on behalf of peace and dialogue."

In another paragraph of the apocryphal letter, Ambassador Arguello de Hupper refers to the alleged support that Figueres gave to a so-called Swiss plan to overcome the contradictions and mistakes "that the Costa Ricans have in their views of Nicaragua and the government of national reconstruction."

The note also says that is why "I assure you once more that your full support for the Swiss plan has been and still is highly regarded by my superiors in Managua and our companeros in Cuba, who have contributed so much to carrying out the plan."

Figueres, who according to other reports received a letter from Fidel Castro thanking him for his efforts, said that is false and he called it "the prostitution of politics." The Nicaraguan diplomatic mission described the case as an action which "clearly violates international and Costa Rican laws, and the ambassador's immunity."

Referring to a civil suit against those involved, Ambassador Arguello de Hupper offered "to donate whatever monetary compensation she obtains from the trial, when she goes ahead with the corresponding legal action, to Costa Rican humanitarian institutions.

She said that she will report the incident to the diplomatic corp accredited in Costa Rica because such actions "can create a state of insecurity among the diplomatic missions accredited in the country in view of the possibility that similar regrettable incidents can happen to them." The Nicaraguan diplomatic mission is also certain that the slanderous methods used by the sectors that like to make trouble will be exposed during the trial.

Those sectors will try "to confuse the Costa Rican people regarding the Nicaraguan Government and people's sincere wishes to have at all times the correct, respectful, and worthy relations favorable to the climate of peace and harmony to which the Central American peoples aspire."

TIRADO LOPEZ CLAIMS LATIN AMERICA 'ABANDONED US'

PA012027 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 1 Dec 85

[Excerpt] We are accused of upsetting the equilibrium of Central America, promoting the arms race, and being allies of the socialist countries, but Latin America has abandoned us, Commander of the Revolution Victor Tirado Lopez has said. The member of the FSLN National Directorate spoke to the workers of the agro-industrial firm IMASA [Mechanical Agricultural Industry, Inc]. He said that the Contadora Group has been defeated by U.S. scheming. To be [words indistinct] only the elections, but going to pick coffee and discussing salary benefits with workers, Tirado Lopez said. He added: We are building a democratic system different from what Latin America envisions [la optica de America Latina]. He reiterated that the government will not hold a dialogue with the forces that were dislodged from power although that is what the U.S. Government wants.

There are two [as heard] principles: The Nicaraguan people will not surrender, Commander Tirado Lopez said to approximately 40 IMASA workers.

ORGANIZATION CITED ON U.S.-HONDURAN MANEUVERS

PA011235 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Dec 85

[Text] The joint U.S.-Honduran maneuvers are a new provocation and permanent threat against Nicaragua. This statement was made by the Council for Hemispheric Affairs [Consejo de Asuntos Hemisfericos]. According to this organization, the United States is using the unjustifiable military maneuvers as a smokescreen to provoke Nicaragua. The council also said that the Reagan administration uses the word maneuver to cover up the construction of training, rest, and weapon supply camps for the counterrevolutionary bands that attack Nicaragua from Honduras.

DANIEL ORTEGA CONGRATULATES HONDURAS' AZCONA

PA010247 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Dec 85

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of the Republic, has expressed the sincere peaceful inclination that moves Nicaragua as well as a wish for the peaceful coexistence between Honduras and Nicaragua, in keeping with universal principles, to his counterpart-elect in Honduras, Jose Azcona del Hoyo.

In this way, the Nicaraguan head of state congratulated the winner of the presidential elections held last week in Honduras, on behalf of the revolutionary people and government. In the presidential message, Ortega says he is extremely pleased at the election of President Azcona at this moment when our people are demanding the establishment of a just and stable peace to ward off the danger of war.

DELEGATION TO VISIT PRC 5 DECEMBER

FL021524 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 2 Dec 85

[Text] China has announced that a high-level delegation from Nicaragua will arrive in Peking on Thursday [5 December] for talks aimed at establishing diplomatic ties. China has attempted in recent years to play a greater part in Central American affairs but was always hampered by the ties most countries in the region have with Taiwan. Western diplomats believe Nicaragua will be the first to cut those ties in favor of links with Peking.

LA PRENSA DENOUNCES NEW PRESSURES BY SANDINISTS

PA030409 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0245 GMT 3 Dec 85

[Text] Managua, 2 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- This capital's opposition daily newspaper LA PRENSA has reported "new pressures and threats" from the Sandinist government and did not circulate today "because it was denied the right to defense."

In a notice on 27 November, the Media Directorate of the Interior Ministry warned the dissident newspaper's executive staff that they could not circulate photocopies of news not authorized by the government.

In the same note, the Media Directorate, which is in charge of enforcing prior censorship in this country, said that it was aware that LA PRENSA'S executive staff had continued disseminating copies of prohibited material "at an internal and external level."

"The violation of these rules places the executives of the newspaper LA PRENSA outside the law and the type of information you are circulating illegally makes the situation even worse," the Media Directorate told the Nicaraguan capital's afternoon newspaper.

The government office noted that LA PRENSA circulated photostatic copies of restricted military information on a rebel attack on the city of Santo Domingo, a naval training exercise in the Gulf of Fonseca, on the Pacific; and another anti-Sandinist attack on "Cara de Mono" village.

LA PRENSA co-director Jaime Chamorro said during a news conference, in which he was accompanied by other editors of the newspaper, that the government is trying to blame the newspaper "for the circulation abroad of news reports on events in the country that have been dispatched by international news agencies."

LA PRENSA's editors argued that "this right cannot be denied to a censored publication even in the harshest of circumstances. The newspaper added that, "Not backed by any law," the Media Directorate has gone so far as "to threaten (LA PRENSA's) executives with prosecution and jailing them on the basis of trumped up and exaggerated charges."

The office of the Interior Ministry had stressed that the notice of 27 November was a "private reprimand." It noted also that "the next violation will draw a rigorous administrative punishment by the Media Directorate, without prejudice to any responsibility that may be incurred because of the violation of the law on the preservation of public order and public security."

As director of the newspaper LA PRENSA, Chamorro filed for protection at an appellate court in Managua "because he was threatened with being deprived of his personal freedom" and "feared for his personal safety."

The report on LA PRENSA's charge about "new excesses and arbitrariness" by the government was not authorized by the Sandinist authorities and the editors decided to withhold publication of the newspaper today as a sign of protest. Based on the state of national emergency, the Sandinist government has been exerting prior censorship on all media since March 1982.

Since then, LA PRENSA has failed to circulate 35 times because of censorship problems, sources from the newspaper told the journalists.

OBANDO NOTES GROWING CHURCH-STATE DIFFERENCES

PA302211 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1940 GMT 30 Nov 85

[Text] Vatican City, 30 Nov (EFE) -- The archbishop of Managua, Miguel Obando y Bravo, today said that the difficulties between the church and the state in Nicaragua have been increasing since last October, when the Sandinist government declared the state of emergency which limits public and private freedoms.

Only a fruitful dialogue among all Nicaraguans can overcome the crisis between the state and the church and the civil war, Cardinal Obando told the press. He is participating in the special synod being held at the Vatican.

The archbishop of Managua, who last Tuesday discussed the relations between the church and the state in his country with Pope John Paul II at a private audience, said that there is a mixed committee with the government making an attempt to overcome the differences through dialogue.

Referring to the situation of the church in Nicaragua, the cardinal pointed to the growing restrictions to his mobilization in the interior of the country; that open air masses have been banned.

Homilies are also subject to prior censorship if they are held outside churches or transmitted through private radios, the president of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference added.

At a homily I said that freedom was the most precious asset which God granted to mankind -- Obando recounted -- and the phrase was censured, the technician let it past by mistake, and the government closed Radio Catolica for 24 hours. According to the prelate, other difficulties facing the church include the refusal to grant visas to foreign priests the church would like to have in Nicaragua in view of the shortage of local priests.

Cardinal Obando also stressed the fact that many local priests have been subject to court proceedings, and others have been called by the police and warned to be more careful about what they say in their homilies.

The priests so called by the police -- the cardinal added -- must have their fingerprints taken and be photographed like common criminals. Referring to the synod, the Managua archbishop expressed optimism because he feels the synod assembly will develop positively. Most prelates in their comments believe that the council has yielded many fruits, the prelate noted.

Liturgical reform, the greater participation of the laity, and the greater importance given to the word of God are the best results of Vatican II. If there are negative aspects, these cannot be attributed to the council, but to the interpretation of its documents, the president of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference concluded.

INTERIOR MINISTER VALDES RELIEVED OF POST

FL031216 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Dec 85

[Text] At the request of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba has agreed to relieve Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes Menendez from the post of interior minister. Comrade Ramiro Valdes will continue to carry out the rest of his responsibilities assigned by the directorate of the party, and, additionally, he will be assinged tasks in the electronic industry area.

Division General Jose Abrahantes, who was first vice minister of the Interior Ministry, has been appointed interior minister.

CASTRO HOSTS RECEPTION FOR INTELLECTUALS

PA021854 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Dec 85

[Text] Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, hosted a reception to honor the delegates to the second meeting of intellectuals for the sovereignty of Latin America last night at Havana's Palace of the Revolution. Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart and the members of Cuba's permanent committe of intellectuals were also hosts of the event.

During the next several hours Commission No 1 of the second meeting of intellectuals for the sovereignty of the peoples of our America, which will end today in Havana, will discuss concrete proposals to advance the struggle for culture, democracy, sovereignty, and peace. On Sunday the members of Commission No. 1 discussed Latin America's socio-economic situation, particularly the strangling foreign debt; U.S. policy toward the area, which is especially hostile in Central America; and U.S. cultural infiltration of the region.

For its part, on Sunday Commission No 2 discussed the influence that artistic changes over the past 2 decades have had on social development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Meanwhile, the members of Commission No 3 exchanged views on the methods that are being followed to struggle against the domination of the news exerted by multinational media firms.

Meeting Ends 2 December

FL030054 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Dec 85

[By Angela Soto and Amado Cordova Herrera]

[Text] The second meeting of intellectuals for the sovereignty of the peoples of our America has ended here at the Palace of Conventions with closing remarks by Culture Minister Armando Hart. During the last session the Maurice Bishop Award, created by the House of the Americas to acknowledge the outstanding work of individuals, groups, or institutions in the area of the Caribbean culture was conferred for the first time.

This year the award recognized the work of the National Dance Theater Company of Jamaica, which sent a message accepting the award. It was read by writer Susy Castro.

Calls for solidarity with Nicaragua -- because of increasing attacks by U.S. imperialism -- and with the peoples of Mexico and Colombia -- because of the natural disaster suffered recently -- were read by former Dominican President Juan Bosch and Brazilian Artist (Chico Huarte Donanda), respectively.

The reporters of the event's three commissions also read the final resolutions approved unanimously by each of these work groups.

The second meeting of intellectuals for the sovereignty of the peoples of our America ended with House of the Americas Director Mariano Rodriguez inviting all delegates to participate in the opening ceremony of the seventh Latin American film festival tonight.

GDR FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ARRIVES IN HAVANA

PA020400 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Dec 85

[Text] Horst Soelle, GDR foreign trade minister, head of his country's delegation to the 13th session of the joint Cuba-GDR Intergovernmental Commission, has arrived in Havana. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Cuban Communist Party's Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, welcomed the visitors at the Jose Marti International Airport.

RAUL CASTRO TO HEAD PARTY CONGRESS DELEGATION

FL291340 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the party and first vice president ofthe Councils of State and Ministers, will head the Havana City Province delegation to the 3rd Party Congress. This announcement was made during the official presentation of the party delegation to the 3d Party Congress, which will be held in February 1986. The delegation will consist of 532 party members representing more than 190,000 Communists of the capital and making up 31 percent of the total number of representatives to the 3d Party Congress. In the composition of the delegation there is a balance between those elected in the provincial assembly, places of employment, Ministry of Interior, and FAR Ministry.

Jorge Lezcano Perez made the closing speech at the meeting, which was held at the theater of the Public Health Ministry.

RAUL CASTRO CONGRATULATES FAR ON ANNIVERSARY

FL021306 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Dec 85

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, FAR minister, has sent a message in the name of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and in his own name congratulating the combatant people on the occasion of today's 29th anniversary of the landing of the Granma forces and day of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

The message expresses the assurance that during the next year, in honor of the 3d Party Congress and the 30th anniversary of the landing of the Granma, the combatant people will redouble their efforts to consolidate and increase their achievements and our concepts of struggle.

Presides Over FAR Ceremony

FL021950 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Dec 85

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and FAR minister, presided over today's ceremony on the day of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and on the 29th anniversary of the landing of the Granma. The ceremony was held at the General Maximo Gomez Revolutionary Armed Forces Academy, and the participants included officials, subofficials, cadets, midshipmen, soldiers, Camilo Cienfuegos Military Vocational School students, and members of our glorious territorial militia troops.

Division General Sixto Batista Santana, alternate Politburo member and chief of the Military Department of the Central Committee, was the keynote speaker. He noted the results of the preparation for the defense of Pinar del Rio, for which that province is accredited as the first in the country to receive the "Ready for the Defense Banner" in the first state.

Orlando Lugo Fonte, alternate member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the party in the territory, received the banner from the hands of Raul Castro.

LAS TUNAS HOLDS 'TRIUMPH 85' STRATEGIC EXERCISES

FL291947 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1505 GMT 29 Nov 85

[Text] The 4-day strategic exercises "Triumph 85" held in Amancio Rodriguez Municipality, Las Tunas Province, have been termed satisfactory. During the exercises, various objectives were met, instructions were given to each defense zone, and activities were proposed to organize production brigades.

Amancio Rodriguez municipality's militiamen are preparing to hold successfully the "Bastion 86" strategic exercise, during which they will improve that territory's readiness and define plans, alerts, and training activities to confront any attack.

On 8 December, Defense Day, the people from Las Tunas are planning to hold a massive and organized drive which will prepare for "Bastion 86" and show the enemy the country's defensive capabilities.

GRANMA EDITORIAL PRAISES USSR HURRICANE AID

PA301737 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Nov 85

[Text] The Cuban people now have new vigor in facing the huge losses caused by Hurricane Kate because of the spontaneous and generous gesture of the Soviet Union in contributing massive material assistance to repair the damage. This is stated by the Cuban newspaper GRANMA in its 30 November editorial.

GRANMA reports that on 27 November Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev told President Fidel Castro that the Soviet Union has decided to supply Cuba free of charge with whatever resources are required to restore the installations that were either destroyed or damaged by the hurricane and to compensate for the people's food losses.

This serves to demonstrate the brotherhood that links the Soviet Union and Cuba and to remind us of the Soviet attitude of 1960, when it began supplying us the oil that had previously been acquired in the United States, before those supplies were cut, and of the Soviet decision to buy from Cuba the sugar that Washington stopped buying on the Cuban market in order to destroy the revolution economically, GRANMA states.

This Soviet decision reminds us, the newspaper adds, of the caravans of ships travelling thousands of kilometers to bring us food, factories, transportation equipment, and other material needed in Cuba. It also reminds us of the extraordinary gesture of freely giving us the modern arms with which we guarantee our defense.

This support, GRANMA notes, obligates us to work not only hard but also most efficiently in utilizing the generous aid that will soon be received from the Soviet Union. Let the Soviets see that the efforts they are making to help us at this difficult moment for the fatherland will produce a victory.

The editorial also notes that the timely attitude of the Soviet Union will spare Cuba the expenditure of thousands of dollars in searching for zinc and aluminum plates and for food items needed by the people now.

GRANMA states that we must have a highly efficient sugar harvest in spite of the fact that sugar plantations were seriously damaged by the hurricane. Our actions in this regard will be a determining factor in the amount of sugar that we will be able to produce and in our ability to comply with our sugar sales commitment with the socialist community, especially with the Soviet Union, which has been so brotherly toward Cuba in this very difficult moment.

We are morally obligated to do the utmost to mill as much sugar as we can and to do it most efficiently, GRANMA states. The editorial concludes by noting that the Cuban people now have more reasons than ever for loving and admiring the Soviet people and for working more and harder to recover from the disaster and to go on with the triumphant march of the first socialist state in the American continent.

BRIEFS

NEW MERCHANT SHIP RECEIVED -- Cuba has received a new merchant ship built at the (Herson) shipyards in the Ukraine. [Summary] [Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Dec 85 FL]

EDUCATION MINISTER IN PANAMA -- Cuban Education Minister Jose Ramon Fernandez has arrived in Panama to attend the meeting of the heads of education of Latin American and Spanish-speaking countries that will begin today. [Text] [Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Dec 85 FL]

2.2-BILLION-PESO BUDGET SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS

FL291714 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 15 Nov pp 1, 13

[by R. Rodriguez Gomez]

[Excerpts] Last night, the National Development Council unanimously approved the budget and public expenditures bill for 1986, which totals 2,161,000,000 pesos. The bill, which must now be passed into law by the National Congress, includes 1,608,000,000 pesos for operating expenses and 553 million pesos for capital expenditures.

Domestic income for 1986 is calculated at 1,945,000,000 pesos without including the recent increases in taxes on alcohol and cigarettes, which were promulgated with a last effective date of 31 December 1985. Of the 1,945,000,000 pesos calculated as 1986 domestic income, 1,867,700,000 pesos will come from taxes and tariffs.

In 1986, in accordance with the bill approved last night, the government will have domestic income totalling 1,945,000,000 pesos and, according to estimated payments programmed for 1986 by international organizations and bilateral financing agencies, it is expected that 216 million pesos will be granted to the Dominican Republic, which will make it possible to meet a budget of 2,161,000,000 pesos. This budget and public expenditures bill represents an increase of about 10 percent over the amount projected for 1985. Secretary of State of Finance Manuel Cocco has said that 2,161,000,000 pesos is the minimum level of expenditures that can guarantee the growth of our economy.

DOMINICA

DFP RETAINS CONTROL OF ROSEAU CITY COUNCIL

FL022232 Bridgetown CANA in English 2147 GMT 2 Dec 85

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Nov 30, CANA -- The ruling Dominica Freedom Party (DFP) fought off a challenge from the main opposition Dominica Labour Party to easily retain control of the Roseau City Council in low-turnout elections here yesterday. The electoral office said the DFP won six of the eight seats contested in the poll, held less than six months after the DFP swept aside the DLP in general elections last July.

Thirty-four percent of the estimated 10,000 voters cast their ballots in the city council elections. The successful candidates included one woman -- Cynthia Butler of the ruling DFP, who polled 505 votes to comfortably defeat Labour candidate, Michael Le Blanc, who received a paltry 173 votes.

For the city council elections, Roseau and its environs had been divided into four wards, with voters choosing two candidates to represent each ward.

The 13 member council will be completed with the appointment of five other persons by government, and the electoral office said that a mayor to replace outgoing Gonsalves Peltier will be chosen when the council meets.

In a DLP stronghold in the capital, trade unionists Alick Gage (421) and Bernard Nicholas (390), edged out the DFP's Clement Alfred (334), and independent candidate, Ronald Abraham (310). [Words indistinct] in the last council, Evans Grell with 687 votes followed by Latig Pascal with 679 votes, while the DLP candidates of Kelvin Fergus and Cecil Joseph received 334, and 336 votes respectively. Clement Harve, 735 votes, and Christian Frederick, 669 votes, secured Ward One for the ruling party defeating the DLP candidate Felix Thomas, who polled 253 votes. Also winning for the DFP was Kelvin Francis with 498 votes.

ECUADOR

PRESIDENT SENDS MESSAGE TO CUBA ON HURRICANE

PA012159 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 1 Dec 85

[Text] President Leon Febres Cordero last night sent Cuban President Fidel Castro a message of solidarity on behalf of the Ecuadoran Government and people, expressing concern over the disaster caused by Hurricane Kate. The text of the message to Castro reads as follows:

I wish to express to you on behalf of the Ecuadoran Government and people our feelings of concern and solidarity over the disaster provoked by Hurricane Kate, which has so seriously affected your country's production and economic sectors, and my hopes that the Cuban people's fortitude will serve to effectively overcome its consequences. I take this opportunity to reiterate to you the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.